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Near East & South Asia

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Arab Committee Statement on Lebanon

LD2706230989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2112 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Oran, 27 Jun (SPA)—The Higher Arab three-man committee, whose members are the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, which is in charge of settling the Lebanese problem, concluded its meetings this evening at Bou Sfer Palace in Oran.

The Higher Arab three-man committee issued the following statement concerning Lebanon:

Final statement of the Higher Arab three-man committee about Lebanon:

We, Hassan II, King of the Kingdom of Morocco; Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques and king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and Chadli Bendjedid, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, held a meeting in Oran on 27 June 1989 within the framework of the Higher Arab three-man committee so as to make an Arab contribution to finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

This second meeting enabled us to make an elaborate and comprehensive evaluation of all the contacts and consultations carried out on our behalf by our foreign ministers and our envoy to Lebanon, in conformity with the directives we gave them during our first meeting in Rabat, with a view to implementing the working plan we adopted, and which we wanted to be marked by justice in treating all the sides of the Lebanese crisis.

From this premise, our first aim was, and remains, the recovery of the necessary climate of trust between the Lebanese citizens, to ease the burden of the tragedy they are facing, and to obtain their courageous, responsible, and conscientious cooperation in order to implement our working plan, which is based on the one principle of the higher interst of Lebanon and all Lebanese.

In this context we express our deep regrets at the continuation of violence, destruction, and fragmentation in Lebanon, despite the call issued by all Arabs who met in Casablanca. We stress that in order to establish a dialogue that will be of benefit to Lebanon and the Lebanese, all forms of violence must stop. Until national reconciliation in Lebanon is prepared and achieved, a halt must be put to all acts and measures which might create or make mutual struggle and divisions resume in Lebanon.

What makes us stronger and more confident in our work is our satisfaction with the deep aspirations of our brethren Lebanese to regain the era of unity, peace, and civilised contributions, which their country has made and is still able to do so yet again.

Furthermore, we feel stronger and more confident, thanks to the support and a readiness for cooperation we have received, whether at the Arab nation or the international level. In this respect we express our gratitude and deep appreciation for such support and readiness to cooperate, which we consider as an expression for effective solidarity toward Lebanon during its tragedy, as well as an expression of confidence in us and in our will to continue the work so that Lebanon might regain its unity, independence, and the integrity of all its territories, and build a new era in which justice and peace prevail to the benefit of all its sons.

In light of the second and decisive round of consultations to be carried out by the foreign ministers, an invitation will be extended to Lebanese parliamentarians to meet outside Lebanon, in a place of their choice, in order to discuss and prepare a document of national concord. However, it is paramount in this repect to achieve a cease-fire, to left the sieges, and reopen the crossing points before this meeting of parliamentarians, which will be a preparatory meeting for a Lebanese parliamentarians' meeting in Lebanon.

We demand that all parties sincerely cooperate with the efforts being exerted by the committee in order to resolve the Lebanese crisis. We, proceeding from our feeling of historical responsibilities in this respect, reaffirm our determination to overcome all difficulties and obstacles that might hinder the path of reaching a radical and comprehensive solution to the Lebanese problem, as well as our will to acquaint the Lebanese, Arab, and international public with what we have done and thef steps we will take within the framework of efforts being exerted by us to resolve this problem.

We beseech almighty God to guide us to the benefit of sisterly Lebanon and our glorious Arab nation.

Palestinian Affairs

Former Nabulus Mayor Interviewed on Intifadah

JN2606170289 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
21 Jun 89 p 16

[Interview with "Nabulus Mayor" Bassam al-Shak'ah by an unidentified correspondent of Al-Quds Media and AL-KHALIJ in Nabulus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] In addition to kicking out occupation troops, the Unified National Leadership is trying to create the infrastructure for the Palestinian State. What has been achieved in this regard?

[Al-Shak'ah] The intifadah [uprising] has achieved an infrastructure lacked by many movements, revolutions, and states that think they have a superior democratic system. This infrastructure is represented in the popular and comprehensive nature of the intifadah. The Unified Leadership is in itself an achievement for the intifadah.

However, it is our right and ambition to call for improving these achievements by broadening representation in the Unified Leadership so that it corresponds to the comprehensive nature of the intifadah.

Institutions—such as popular committees in every neighborhood, camp, village, and city—must be created throughout the occupied territories. Also, alternative institutions must be created to substitute for those on which the occupation imposed its control by appointing specialized committees for municipalities and implementing the laws of the civil administration, which has imposed its control over most of our institutions, including sports. Hence, the structure of the masses exists, and this is the crucial depth for any structure which we aim to build.

[Correspondent] Many figures have been reported on the effect of the intifadah on the "Israeli" economy. But, how did the intifadah affect the Palestinian economy?

[Al-Shak'ah] The impact on the Israeli [as published] economy was basically positive from our viewpoint, because there was no Palestinian economy but an economy annexed to the Israeli economy to serve it strategically and momentarily.

The national resolve, the determination to continue the boycott, the ambition to enlarge the area of agricultural land and improve performance in agriculture, and the aspiration to broaden the industrial base and relatively reduce the Israeli authorities' grip on the occupied territories are all considered a basic service to our current and future economy. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The Arab states have declared their commitment to extend aid to the intifadah, particularly financial aid. Do citizens feel that aid?

[Al-Shak'ah] Aid and the policy of aid have a long history. As I understand the question, aid began following the Baghdad summit conference, which was held after Al-Sadat's visit [to Jerusalem] and the policy of Camp David. This aid did not continue but was gradually reduced. Therefore, it did not serve the economic life. Given the limited amount available, there was waste because there was no comprehensive, detailed plan backed financially and politically. There was no unified plan and no enthusiasm for aid, so how could there be an improvement in this aid to make it show results?

The absence of a united Arab position and a strategic Arab front against imperialist-Zionist strategy as well as improved living conditions, to the detriment of the cause, have in principle had a negative impact on maintaining support for the intifadah. Support for the intifadah has thus far been limited and has failed to measure up to the needs and challenges. The resolutions of the Algiers summit, which convened 6 months after the intifadah began, decreed support as a result of the stirrings of a thaw between the PLO and Syria and a dialogue between them in the aftermath of the martyrdom of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. After the summit conference differences surfaced again, and there was a dwindling of support.

[Correspondent] Is it fair to say that Shamir's plan is now a dead letter? Or do you think it is still alive?

[Al-Shak'ah] Shamir's plan did not come out of the blue. It is a link in a chain of international, Arab, and Palestinian projects. Shamir's plan is part of this series and is now taking centerstage, eclipsing earlier key plans. Following the [Palestinian] departure from Beirut and the emphasis on political action, the Soviet Union proposed the international conference, which was embraced by the Arab states and the PLO, and the notion received worldwide attention. Even the United States itself came to regard it as a fact of life. Soon the Palestinian state was declared, pushing the international conference into the back seat, the thrust become whether or not to recognize the Palestinian state. Necessarily, this was followed by direct negotiations. This has made the Palestinian cause become a national rather than a supranational affair while the Lebanese issue and the occupation of the Golan Heights have been divorced from the Palestinian cause. Then came the elections issue as Israel's response after international interest flagged, especially since the setback that hit the slogan of the [Palestinian] state when it sought admission to the WHO. Now the election proposal is being hotly debated by the Palestinians, Arabs, Europeans, Americans, and Soviets, which means that there is enough momentum and dynamism to enable us to say that Shamir's plan is a nonevent. Tactically, however, Shamir's plan has succeeded in reviving the step-by-step approach, which is counter to Arab interests within the context of a regional balance of forces that evidently favors the imperialists and their agents. It follows that the elections do not stand a chance as long as the occupation persists. To my mind, though, the continuing debate on Shamir's plan marks a success for Israel's strategy, regardless of the immediate outcome of the elections, because it what comes next that really counts.

[Correspondent] What if changess are introduced into the plan? What, in your opinion, are the necessary changes?

[Al-Shak'ah] From my point of view, Shamir's plan is rejected and there is no room for changes in it. Neither is Israel ready to make concessions, nor is it possible to hold elections under occupation—in principle or in practice—because international law stipulates that occupation changes the geography, formation, and personality of the occupied. Our people have tasted what elections mean where Israeli laws consisting of 1,254 military orders, apart from their addenda, apply and where Shamir still insists on not conceding one inch when he tells 'AL HAMISHMAR that his project came about in the first place to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian entity.

[Correspondent] It is noteworthy that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in the occupied territories has stopped. Before I ask why it has stopped, I would like to ask why it started, for what purpose, and what was achieved by it?

[Al-Shak'ah] The Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, initiated by the Israeli side, is a tactic to hit the Palestinian and Arab stand and shatter the Arab and Palestinian constants. From the Palestinian side, it is clear to see why they participate. Despite the fact that at the beginning of the occupation such meetings took place on progressive bases, they were stopped due to their futility. The topic of these meetings has been brought up again with the new political trends. It could be that now they are maintaining a low profile. In fact, there might be a development in them. The dialogue Butrus Ghali [Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs] held with notables indicates the progress of such discussions. However, this lowered profile has a great deal to do with the tight room for maneuvering in Israel and with U.S. policy, thus revealing the aims and futility of these meetings.

[Correspondent] What is your evaluation of the U.S. dialogue after three rounds?

[Al-Shak'ah] The dialogue, in the first place, does not deserve all this attention, regardless of the level, as a basic demand. This is because the fact of proposing dialogue, from the technical aspect, with the United States, which has known stands, carries with it a readiness to show understanding and hold meetings at a political level. This is not possible with the international atmosphere and the balance of power in the region. Dialogue with the United States and the concentrated interest in it lowered the standard of relations that the PLO has achieved from its establishment up to the intifadah and even beyond.

The result of the most recent meeting testifies to that and to the fact that the United States is using the dialogue to twist the PLO's arm. Despite the conditions attached to the elections proposal, the United States has said that the PLO is not categorically opposed to the polls. The United States is interested in wringing concessions and cares nothing about rights, values, justice, and peace. The most recent veto bears testimony to this.

[Correspondent] Do you see the United States coming up with a new initiative in light of the dialogue with the PLO?

[Al-Shak'ah] I think Washington's support for Shamir is a new initiative, and I do not see a new one other than according to the scenario I have described.

[Correspondent] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker called on Israel to abandon the Greater Israel dream and discontinue settlement activity. How do you see this translating into practice?

[Al-Shak'ah] This will translate politically by enabling Israel to play its designated role in the imperialist scheme. The call on Israel to foreswear the dream of the Israeli empire is belated now that Israel evacuated Lebanon following the strategic development that arose as a result of the strategic balance policies pursued by Syria and as a result of the success of the progressive forces in halting the advance of imperialist and Zionist plans. [sentence as published] The American declaration came after all this, but it failed to be coupled with recognition of the Palestinian people's determination to achieve liberation, their intifadah, and their will to build their own state. Baker's statement did not include a recognition of the PLO, which emasculates it. Further, the statement entrenches imperialist policies and enables Israel to advance them. The continuation of the intifadah will make Israel a liability to to the imperialist policies in every way, and the Arabs will be the party required to make concessions unless the progressive base I referred to is built.

[Correspondent] Now Egypt is back at the Arab League. What do you think are the implications of Egypt's return for the Camp David agreement and its relations with Israel as well as joint Arab action?

[Al-Shak'ah] In my opinion the Arabs have returned to Camp David since Egypt returned to the Arabs without a real plan in the political, military, or economic sense. There is no state of Arab solidarity to face the challenges, above all the imperialist-Zionist strategy.

[Correspondent] Do you expect Syrian-Palestinian ties developing meaningfully following the meeting in Casablanca between Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat?

[Al-Shak'ah] Unfortunately, no.

PNSF Calls for Rejecting Election Plan

JN2706122689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Damascus—The Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] has affirmed that Israel's plan for elections in the occupied Arab territories is aimed at liquidating and obliterating the Palestine question and undermining the Palestinian Arab people's recognized and inalienable rights. In a statement distributed today, the PNSF said the Israeli plan will lead to terminating the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied homeland and circumventing its objective of removing the Zionist occupation.

The statement calls for rejecting the plan and putting an end to the policy based on fragmenting the Palestine question into separate issues leading to its liquidation.

'Arafat Sends U.S. Letter on Shamir's Plan

JN2806072589 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Jun 89 pp 1, 20

[By Muhammad Sa'id Dalbah]

[Excerpt] Washington—AL-RA'Y has learned that the U.S. State Department recently received an official letter from PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat containing the Palestinian stand on enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories.

Informed sources told AL-RA'Y that 'Arafat's letter was sent at the request of the U.S. Administration, which had insisted that 'Arafat sends a letter expressing what Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh had communicated to U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau during the third session of talks which was held between them on 8 June to the effect that the PLO accepts, in principle, Shamir's election plan.

The sources said that in his letter 'Arafat emphasized that his definitive acceptance of Shamir's plan is conditional on a U.S. pledge to have the PLO participate in the permanent settlement and that the U.S. Administration would bring pressure to bear on the Arab countries concerned to have them publicly declare their acceptance of Shamir's plan so that the PLO stand will not be isolated from that of the Arab countries.[passage omitted]

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Hanoi 27 Jun

JN2706112589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] In Tunis, a PLO spokesman affirmed that Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Hanoi this morning on an official visit to Vietnam. The Palestinian spokesman said that the delay in 'Arafat's arrival in Hanoi was due to a technical reason related to air navigation.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Conference Preparations Outlined

BK2706160589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] The meeting of foreign secretaries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] member countries begins in Islamabad tomorrow to finalize the agenda of the ministerial conference of the organization. The 2-day ministerial conference will begin in Islamabad on Saturday [1 July]. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who is also the chairperson of the SAARC, will inaugurate the conference. The 2-day foreign secretaries meeting will review the progress achieved so far in various sectors.

The high-level contacts between the SAARC member countries are continuing to persuade the Sri Lankan Government to attend the seventh foreign ministers conference of the organization. Earlier, Sri Lanka announced that it would not attend the SAARC Foreign Ministers Conference to be held in Islamabad early next as a protest against India's refusal to withdraw her forces from Sri Lanka.

The secretary general of SAARC, Abul Ahsan [of Bangladesh], called on Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad today. They had an overall review of the SAARC activities and exchanged views on relevant matters. The foreign minister commended the services of the secretary general for the organization. The SAARC secretary general also met with Iqbal Akhund, the prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs and national security. They exchanged views on matters related to SAARC.

Nepalese Foreign Secretary Narendra Bikram Shah has said that SAARC has helped promote cooperation among member countries. He said in an interview following his arrival in Islamabad that steps should be taken to further strengthen the existing cordial relations between Nepal and Pakistan. On Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's recent visit to Nepal, he said that the people in Nepal have highly appreciated the visit, because he paid the visit during their need.

Ministers Arrive in Islamabad

BK2806040089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] The foreign secretaries of India, Bangladesh, and Bhutan arrived in Islamabad last night for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] meetings.

Talking to newsmen on his arrival, Indian Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh said: We have high expectations from the SAARC.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary S.K. Murshad said great potential existed for promoting cooperation in the economic sector. Referring to relations with Pakistan, the Bangladesh foreign secretary said: We should take measures to strengthen the already-existing excellent ties.

Bhutan Foreign Secretary (T.J. Rixon) said the SAARC has already done a great deal to create mutual understanding among member countries.

The foreign secretaries of Nepal and Maldives had already arrived in the capital.

Algeria

Bessaieh Meets UN's Perez de Cuellar 23 Jun

LD2406095689 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] To consolidate the peace efforts aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the Western Sahara conflict and complete his tour to the northwest African region—which took him to Morocco, Mauritania, Mali, Senegal, and Western Sahara—UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar is now in our country, which is the final stop on his tour.

Within this framework, we note that the talks brought together Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh and UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. These talks, which began privately, were extended to encompass members of the two delegations, represented on the Algerian side by Foreign Minister General Secretary Abdelouahab Abada and by Hocine Djoudi, Algeria's permanent representative at the United Nations, and on the UN secretary general's side by Abdulrahim Abby Farah [name as received], assistant secretary general; Issa Diallo [name as received], director of the UN secretary general's office; and Brigadier General Timothy Dibauma [name as received], military adviser.

The UN secretary general informed the Algerian delegation about the current situation of the joint good offices of the UN and the OAU to solve the Western Sahara conflict considering that Algeria is an observer state of the peace (?efforts).

Mr Perez de Cuellar also reviewed the prospects for the peace efforts in light of the talks he held with the two parties to the conflict. In his turn, the foreign minister stressed Algeria's support and encouragement for the UN-OAU joint good offices and assessed the situation in the region as developing in an atmosphere suitable to a peaceful and just solution in the Western Sahara.

On the other hand, Mr Boualem Bessaieh informed the UN secretary general of the development of the efforts of the Arab 3-man committee on Lebanon in light of the ministerial meeting held recently in Algiers. The two sides completed the working session by dealing with international issues.

Perez de Cuellar Meets Bendjedid

LD2406172789 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] A meeting was held today at the Presidency by President Chadli Bendjedid and UN Secretary Gerenal Perez de Cuellar, who arrived yesterday in Algeria within the context of his efforts to solve the Western Sahara crisis. Perez de Cuellar in a statement following the meeting, said that the visit, aimed at encouraging the course of peace, was successful, "although I did not expect brilliant results because the problem cannot be solved easily. But I believe we have progressed in diagnosing the more important issues on the road to negotiations."

Soviet Military Delegation Begins Visit 26 Jun

LD2706151589 Algiers APS in English 1046 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Algiers, 27/6/89 (APS)—A Soviet military army [as received], led by General Ivan Tretyak, chief of staff of the Air Defence Troops, vice-minister of defence in Soviet Union, is since Monday afternoon in Algiers for a few-day visit.

Officers Receive Delegation

LD2706212889 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] General Chelloufi, secretary general of the Defense Ministry, received this morning in Algiers a delegation led by General Ivan Tretyak, commander-in-chief of the Air Defense Troops and deputy defense minister of the Soviet Union. Earlier, the same delegation was received by General Khaled Nezar, chief of staff of the National Popular Army.

Egypt

Consultative Council Elects Committees

JN2706144789 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Jun 89 p 6

[Summary] The Consultative Council met under Council Speaker Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi yesterday and elected the council's committee chairmen and members. The Consultative Council members elected the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee headed by Counselor Yusuf Nassar; the Services Committee headed by Dr Mahmud Mahfuz; the Arab Affairs Committee headed by Dr Mufid Shihab; the Agricultural and Land Reclamation Committee headed by Ibrahim Sa'd Hajras; the Industry, Energy, and Manpower Committee headed by Muhammad Zaki Malik; the Financial and Economic Committee headed by Ahmad Rashad Musa; the Ethics Committee headed by Tharwat Abazah; and the General Committee headed by Council Speaker Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi.

Premier Presents Report on Investment Companies

JN2706173189 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 26 Jun 89 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi announced that the government, within the next few hours, will present the People's Assembly with the draft law of the social increment at a rate of 15 percent of the basic pay or the comprehensive bonus.

The new increment will be disbursed with next July's salary for government employees, the public sector, and the salaried people on the same basis as last year.

During a discussion of the new budget yesterday in the People's Assembly, the prime minister said that there are contacts being held with some sides abroad to reach positive results for the benefit of the depositors in the capital investment companies.

Dr Sidqi clarified that the Planning Committee's report called for quickly issuing the employment reform law. He affirmed that the draft law is ready and could be presented to the assembly immediately. However, the government wishes to study how to prepare the real resources necessary to implement it.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi said that the budget deficit is a negative phenomenon in our national economy present for a long time. It does not only exist in Egypt, but also in other more developed countries.

Sidqi said: We are not happy with this deficit and will not give in to it. The increase in revenues requires first an increase in production.

Concerning guiding production, the prime minister clarified that what we have done so far includes a number of measures which we hope we will be successful to implement without hampering the production wheel. We have presented some projects to increase revenues while taking into consideration first and foremost that they do not affect the low-income people. These are tax revenues whose aim is to get real revenues. He pointed out that it would have been easier for the government to finance inflationary revenues. However, that did not take place.

On the latest developments concerning the capital investment companies, Dr 'Atif Sidqi said: I received a report today from the Financial Market Authority on these companies indicating that the capital investment companies' law has set a number of dates to deal with these companies. It has specified 8 August 1989 as the last date for rectifying the situation where any company would be allowed to present programs and schedules of work. June 30, 1989 is the last date of presentation for companies that do not wish to adjust their situation in accordance with the finance minister's decision. September 8, 1989, has also been set as a third date for ending submitting the companies' programs. June 9, 1989, will be the last date for returning the money to its owners. However, what is the situation today?

There are companies and people who indicated their desire to adjust their situation. These amount to 33 companies whose deposits amount to 3.7 billion [Egyptian] pounds at a rate of 94.8 percent of the total deposits which all the companies got. The number of depositors in these countries reached 435,000 at a rate of 96.8 percent of the total number of depositors in all the companies. The companies that asked for adjusting their situation reached 97 percent of the total companies and approximately 95 percent of the depositors. Of all these companies only two have actually finished the paperwork; they are of the two largest companies.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi said: The public prosecution is now investigating with the officials one company whose deposits amounted to 1.6 billion pounds and the number of depositors 167,000.

The prime minister said there was another group which indicated the desire not to adjust their situation. They number 23 companies—15 of which have a safe financial position and their deposits were limited to 96 million pounds.

He added that these companies will give back the sums in accordance with the programs before the legal time is up. There are some companies which have started giving back the money. There are also eight companies that have not submitted reports on their financial situation. Their case has been submitted to the public prosecution who has issued a decision to place five of them in preventive custody. The Court of Ethics has imposed custody on one of them. As for the remaining two, the prosecution has issued a decision to hold their owners for further investigations. Apart from that, there are some companies in which the government cannot interfere: Companies belonging to individuals which will be dealt with by the socialist public prosecutor's office. They number 23; their deposits amount to 1.7 million pounds and the number of depositors 563.

The prime minister said: The government will present an amendment of the capital investment companies' law where a new article will be added dealing with liquidating the companies that do not rectify their situation. It will present this amendment in the next few days.

Concerning raising the interest rate I say this: This subject requires a firm study. Some people say that the government is slow. This is not true because the issue requires study and careful weighing. I affirm that I will not hesitate to agree to anything that encourages investment.

MENA To Rejoin Arab News Agencies' Union

NC2706124689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Amman, 27 Jun (MENA)—The General Assembly of the Union of Arab News Agencies today unanimously voted to restore MENA's membership to the union. The general assembly instructed its chairman, Birjis Hammud al-Birjis, to visit Egypt and meet with MENA officials to notify them of the decision and discuss the future of ties and the fields of cooperation between the Union of Arab News Agencies and MENA. [passage omitted]

Yusuf Wali Meets Israeli Party Leaders 27 Jun

NC2706114689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1133 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, met today with El'azar Granot, MAPAM [United Workers Party] secretary general, and Latif Duri, MAPAM Arab affairs official.

During the meeting, the three officials reviewed the efforts of the Israeli peace-loving sources, including MAPAM.

Granot reiterated that his party recognizes the Palestinian people's rights and supports the continued dialogue with the PLO to arrive at a just solution in accordance with the land-for-peace principle.

Israelis Meet Ghali, Comment

NC2806063489 Cairo MENA in English 0600 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA)—"AL-AKHBAR" reported today in its top billing and leading frontpage story on press statements by an Israeli party official saying in Cairo that the uprising of the Palestinian people in the Palestinian lands under Israeli occupation was a national liberation movement that could not be brought to an end except through the creation of a Palestinian state in these lands.

The statement was made by Latif Duri, in charge of Arab affairs in the MAPAM [United Workers] Party, after his meeting here Tuesday with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Duri attended yesterday a meeting of the party's delegation currently visiting Egypt with Dr Ghali during which they discussed relations between Egypt's ruling majority National Democratic Party [NDP] and the Israeli MAPAM Party.

"AL-AKHBAR" quoted Duri describing the uprising of the Palestinian people as an uprising of democratic forces. Duri said the MAPAM party strongly opposed Israel's occupation of Arab land and stood against provocation, killing of children and beating of women as actions that could not lead to peace and stability.

El'azar Granot, MAPAM's secretary who is heading the party delegation, said they held talks with NDP Secretary General Dr Yusuf Wali and other NDP officials. He further said that peace was the responsibility of all parties involved in the conflict and not only of Israel. Egypt, he added, had a major role to play in boosting ahead the peace process.

Dr Ghali told members of the MAPAM party efforts must be pursued for resolving the Palestine problem and establishing peace in the area.

MAPAM party members declared clearly they believed that holding negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization was necessary. [passage omitted]

Ghali Receives Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister

NC2706135389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1317 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met this afternoon with Anatoliy Adamishin, deputy Soviet minister of foreign affairs, who is currently visiting Egypt. During the meeting, the two officials reviewed developments in the Middle East and exchanged views on African affairs.

The Soviet official arrived in Cairo 2 days ago on invitation from Dr Butrus Ghali in the framework of the continuous consultations between the Egypt and the Soviet Union.

ACC Secretary General Leaves for Amman 28 Jun

NC2806093189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0912 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA)—Dr Hilmi Nammar, secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], left Cairo for Amman this morning on a visit which will last several days.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Nammar stated that the visit is designed to select and prepare an ACC headquarters in Amman and sign a headquarters agreement with the Jordanian Government. He added that he will meet with Jordanian officials to study potential integration projects among the ACC countries.

During the visit, Dr Nammar will hold talks to prepare for the next ACC summit, which will be held in Sanaa on 25 September.

Editorial Calls for Meeting on Israeli 'Crimes'

JN2406113289 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 22 Jun 89 p 5

[Editorial: "A World Campaign To Stop Israel's Crimes"]

[Text] Egypt had to move, not just in the name of the Arab world alone, but in the name of world conscience, to warn Israel against the consequences of its bestial practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territory. The Palestinians are demanding their right to live an honorable life without coercion or inhumane treatment. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry summoned the Israeli ambassador in Cairo to inform his chiefs in Tel Aviv of its opinion of their desperate attempts to stop the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] to enter its 20th month soon. This Egyptian move is necessary to draw attention to the consequences of the reckless Israeli stand.

The international community failed to make the Security Council issue an official world condemnation of the crimes which Israel insists on committing against the defenseless people. The Palestinians are facing lethal weapons with stones because of Washington's insistence

on giving unfair protection to its ally regardless of this ally's violations of ethical and legal principles in its dealing with the sons of the land it is occupying by force. Therefore, the Arab world is duty-bound to embark on a large-scale worldwide campaign—regardless of the costs—to expose Israel's inhumane methods and real picture before world public opinion.

We call on the Arab information ministers to hold an emergency meeting as soon as possible to lay down a strategy for an information campaign in which all Arab embassies in all world capitals and all Arab and friendly media organs would participate in accordance with an integral plan to shake and move consciences everywhere. The objective is to condemn the continuous Israeli crimes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and to call on the Tel Aviv rulers to stop these crimes because they will only increase obstacles on the path of peace sought by everybody.

Paper Attacks Israeli Abuses Against Children

JN2406130189 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
22 Jun 89 p 7

[Editorial: "The Tribulations of Palestinian Childhood"]

[Text] The massacre of youth and children who have not yet reached 20 years of age in the occupied territories continues without deterrent. Despite the international scandal and denial campaigns, the rulers of Israel have savored—it seems—these barbarous methods through long-time practice without finding anyone who would seriously and practically step in their way.

This outrageous escalation is happening while the International Decade of the Child is approaching its end and the rights of children are being promoted everywhere. Over the past 9 years, the whole world has been celebrating their protection, security, and care.

International agreements and resolutions call for adhering to the human rights of the civilians in general. These are being directed toward Israel, especially now in light of the nasty practices. Despite these resolutions and agreements, the operations of oppression are increasing, especially against children. The methods of oppressing them are continuing in a manner unprecedented in contemporary history. The issue does not rest merely with killing, or burning in gas chambers; nay, it has gone beyond these hellish methods, which Israel screamed about to the whole world when the Nazis used them against the Jews, to what looks like sadist torture methods. These methods cannot be executed other than by sick criminal minds. They include such practices as dismembering the limbs, decapitations, electrocuting certain parts of the body, and spreading shrapnel inside the body by using scatter bullets. All these are methods to deter, paralyze, and create permanent handicaps. As for direct killing, it also happens of course by using gas and weapons. However, the occupation has other hellish methods such as burning where arrested or held and burying children alive.

The record exists, is very ugly, dense, and known to the investigating sides, humanitarian organizations, media, and governmental and international bodies. The measures of oppression always have new and creative things added to them. What arouses the anger and fury in all this is that what is happening is not an actual war. If that were the case, one could excuse these bloody measures. It is a an attack which is unprecedented in its ferocity, targeting defenseless children and youth stripped of any real weapons, perhaps as a mad device to pressure the old. However, primarily it is a deadly attempt to annihilate the roots of the Palestinian future. It is a gruesome settling of accounts with the Palestinian identity in its most prominent and cheerful image.

One cannot keep quiet about the situation as it stands and cannot be satisfied with the condemnation statements or feelings of sympathy, or even feel pride over the strength and steadfastness of the rising Palestinian generations. There is a need for hasty international intervention to stop these terrible massacres, assign an international conference for the Palestinian children's tribulations, use all methods of pressure from the part of those participating in it, and send relief aid. Child organizations and youth and children forces in the whole world should take one firm stand and send protest petitions by the dozen to the Israeli Government, symbolically signed with their blood.

Editorial Views Israeli Extremists, Consequences

JN2706182589 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
26 Jun 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Features of the Explosion"]

[Text] Unless curbed, the drive of extremism now characterizing part of the Israeli ruling circles and settlers may ultimately lead to an internal explosion of which the Israeli community itself will be the victim. The Israelis may pay the price while thinking that their leaders, through oppression against the intifadah [uprising], are leading them to safety.

This is not a difficult equation, because the trend supporting moderation, in response to the moderation of the PLO in particular and the Arabs in general, also has its basis. It is spreading and gaining power among both the elite and the public inside the Israeli entity. What usually happens in such a case is that the community suffers increasing divisions, not only polarization to this extreme or that. This happens when the efforts and arguments between the two poles, the moderation and the extremism, intensifies. This necessarily leads to a clash at some point, when the conflict takes the shape of a serious attempt by both parties to control the mentality of the average people. Indeed, we can see that this point

has been reached, and this is reflected in the settlers' absolute extremism, encouraged by extreme hardliners, against the Palestinians, and even against the ruling team. These settlers are now calling for replacing the ruling team, at the head of which are Shamir and Rabin, with a more violent team, at the head of which is the general of adventures Ari'el Sharon.

Shamir himself has warned against the eruption of a civil war between the Israelis, and called for self-restraint and avoidance of the dramatic wave of vicious attacks by settlers against Palestinian villages and property. This is despite the fact that Shamir was one of the first people who encouraged and fomented these attacks. It seems he now fears a total chaos and disregard of the instructions and blessings, whether given publicly or secretly. He might even be thinking that the regime itself, in front of this sweeping wave, is not only in a crisis, but also in great danger.

Military leaders' admittance of failure to confront the intifadah, despite the formidable military and financial support for the troops, keeps flowing. So does conviction about the failure of official politicians to take any genuine initiative to reach a reasonable solution to the conflict. There is also increasing evidence pointing to a grave economic crisis as a result of the relative lack of the Palestinian labor force, the loss of two thirds of the annual growth rate, and the phased increase of military allocations. This situation may lead to a real vacuum, not only in the ruling administration, but also in the elements of stability in general. This would encourage the call for extremism on one hand, and the desire to fill this vacuum by force, whether material or moral, on the other, and this will place the country on the verge of explosion.

Sudan

More on Numayri's Reported Opposition From Chad

PM2706103189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jun 89 pp 1-2

['Uthman Mirghani, Al-Sirr Sayyid Ahmad, and Muhammad Ahmad Hisham reports: "Numayri Planning Armed Opposition From Chad"]

[Excerpts] Khartoum, London, Riyadh—Al-Thawm Muhammad al-Thawm, information official of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party and former information minister, has revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a Sudanese official left for Cairo yesterday to discuss the question of former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's political activities. Meanwhile, informed Sudanese sources say that Numayri might leave Egypt for Chad to begin a new phase of escalated opposition, which could reach the point of using arms. The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Chad is the most likely country to grant the former president asylum, particularly in view of his close ties with Chadian President Hissein Habre whom he strongly backed and supported when the latter was fighting the regime of former Chad President Goukouni Oueddei.

The sources did not rule out the possibility that Habre might supply Numayri with men and arms and give him major facilities to enable him to carry out activities from the Chad-Sudan border areas. They referred, in this connection, to the statement attributed to Numayri in which he said that he would go to London and from there "to a fraternal state neighboring my homeland Sudan," and that he would launch a relentless war against the current Sudanese regime and "begin a struggle against famine which has claimed so many lives, because the time for patience is over and now is the time for serious work."

That, the sources say, indicates that Numayri is perhaps planning a phase of armed resistance against the Sudanese Government, taking advantage of the deteriorating relations between Chad and Sudan. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the best thing Egypt could do is to deport Numayri if he does not stop his political activity because his presence in Egypt undermines Egyptian-Sudanese relations. He was commenting on Numayri's statement that he wished to go to London and from there to an African state to resume his political activity and regain power in Sudan. The British Embassy in Cairo has made it clear that it still has not received an application for an entry visa from Numayri and that the decision regarding such application, if received, would be made in London.

Al-Husayn, speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone from Khartoum, said the Sudanese Government held contacts with Egypt in the past about stopping Numayri's political activity

Asked if the Sudanese Government would continue to request Numayri's extradition to Sudan to face trial if he accepted asylum in some other country, Al-Husayn said they [Sudanese Government officials] would not anticipate events. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Interviewed on Coup Attempt

PM2606151989 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 21 Jun 89 p 14

[Telephone interview with Sudanese Interior Minister Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil by Muhammad Mahjub; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] His Excellency Sudanese Interior Minister Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil has emphasized that the recent coup attempt was an organized operation watched by the Sudanese security services until the moment a move was made last Sunday, since the participants had planned to arrest military commanders and members of the general

leadership and attack political leaders inside the parliament (Constituent Assembly) building during the 19 June session where the prime minister was expected to deliver a scheduled speech. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] Your Excellency Minister, do you believe that 39 people could have managed to implement such a coup?

[Al-Fadil] Any organization has active cadres to carry out basic tasks. It also has assisting elements, but the main elements are those who plan, make contacts, and implement. A coup is not based on large numbers of people. It is a process of moving specific groups to create a vacuum, destroy political and military leaders, and exploit the situation in a bid to seize power. It is not a broad, mass operation. It always is carried out by pockets of military and civilians conspiring to obstruct the legitimate leadership and create a vacuum through which they attempt to control the situation. A coup is risky in nature and depends on whether the plan to create a vacuum is successful. Anyway, those arrested are neither prominent nor do they carry any political or military weight. This is why the operation was linked to former President Numayri, because the scheme has internal and foreign links. The idea was to involve the former president in filling the vacuum. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] Do you believe the punishment will be the death penalty?

[Al-Fadil] That depends on the investigations by the military judiciary under military law. Investigations are conducted depending on the charges and evidence. The military judiciary makes its decision according to the stipulations of military law in the cases of rebellion against the legitimate authority and the military command. I cannot specify any kind of punishment.

[Mahjub] Your Excellency Minister, in your view, what are the results of those events?

[Al-Fadil] Our accusation is directed at former President Numayri who has links with such operations. I believe non-Sudanese, foreign powers helped in that act. At present, no individuals are at large, but some of those involved in that conspiracy, Sudanese and non-Sudanese, are abroad. Of course, it is too early to level accusations. Furthermore, it is difficult to reach or arrest a person outside the country because most states refuse to extradite people involved in such political crimes. Anyhow, the Council of Ministers will discuss these issues in the coming days and, in view of those discussions, an official, political, popular decision on our relations with others will be made. The Sudanese executive, political, and party organs will deal with such matters.

[Mahjub] And what about punishment for the civilian defendants?

[Al-Fadil] With regard to the civilians too, their cases are subject to investigation and they will be sent to court. Our judiciary is independent. Our security organs ascertain the charges after inquiries, then submit the charges to an official court which works to prove the charges and then decide the punishment accordingly.

[Mahjub] When did the Sudanese security services begin to watch that organization?

[Al-Fadil] The operation originally began in January, that is, 5 months ago. It was under observation and some elements were arrested in January and February. The picture was not clear at the time, and the information was not as clear as it is now. This is why the surveillance process continued and some security elements infiltrated those organizations. They were recruited by the plotters. They were able to uncover much information and to expose other security elements in the various security organs, whether within the Armed Forces or the security services. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] What about government priorities after the foiled coup?

[Al-Fadil] It did not reach the coup stage. It is a repudiated coup organization; it has been exposed. The government is proceeding with its priorities; it is focusing on major, important issues; namely, peace, defense, and economy.

[Mahjub] Your Excellency Minister, do you have anything to say to assure the Arab world and the Sudanese communities in the world about present conditions in Sudan?

[Al-Fadil] I would tell them that democracy is getting stronger and firmer in the face of the conspiracies against the people's option and freedom. And undoubtedly those foreign-backed conspiracies tend to strengthen the Sudanese people's determination and will to preserve their achievements so as to enhance, strengthen, and protect the democratic system in order to confront all the conspiracies hatched against it. I assure our brothers that the situation is normal and the Armed Forces are coherent and condemn those groups trying to undermine the Sudanese people's achievements. The situation in the country is normal and there are no extraordinary measures. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] Your Excellency Minister, are there other organizations in Sudan which are being watched by the security men?

[Al-Fadil] The question is on security and I have no comment.

DUP Unsure Coup Plot Really Existed

AB2706202089 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 27 Jun 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] A political rift looks like it is developing in Sudan over the coup plot revealed by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi last week. Both civilians and soldiers were arrested afterwards. A newspaper was closed down and journalists picked up after running an interview with former President Ja'far Numayri, said to be behind the coup attempt. Now some politicians are saying they don't believe the government's story. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report.

[Begin studio announcer recording] The Democratic Unionist Party, the DUP, the second largest party in Sudan's coalition government, has expressed doubts about the recent announcement by the government that it has foiled a coup plot. A leading member of the DUP, Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad, who was a former minister of foreign affairs had described the plot as a bad play. The play has a weak plot, the script is mediocre, and the acting and directing very poor, he said.

The authorities announced about 10 days ago that they had arrested 14 Army officers, including 6 brigadiers, and nearly 50 civilians linked to a plan to return to power by force former President Ja'far Numayri. DUP members say they are not sure the plot really existed. They say they are particularly distressed by the charges by some government officials that Egypt was involved in the plot. The DUP sees Egypt as Sudan's most important foreign ally and has constantly brushed off attempts to blame some of Sudan's problems on Egypt. The DUP is also reportedly unhappy that all six detained brigadiers are from the northern region, a DUP stronghold.

The party says the six are officers of high repute and were among the group of senior Army officers who served Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi with an ultimatum for political and economic reforms. However, top Army officers and the al-Ummah Party still insist that the coup attempt was real. The speaker of the parliament, (Faruq al-Biriya), who is a leading al-Ummah Party member, has aid anyone who doubted the plot's authenticity was committing treason. However, news of the coup plot has so far failed to trigger any popular action in support of the government. [end recording]

Bar Association on Coup

NC2506175889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Jun (MENA)—The Sudanese Bar Association issued a statement today denouncing the recent coup attempt. The association urged the state to safeguard democracy and to stop restricting civil liberties by enacting emergency laws.

In its statement, the association called for liquidating the vestiges of [the revolution of] May and for forging ahead toward the establishment of peace in the south.

SPLM Official Voices Optimism Over Peace

NC2606183089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1329 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Jun (MENA)—Dr Lam Koul, in charge of coordination and foreign relations in the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] of John Garang, today described Egypt's stand on the conflict in southern Sudan as positive. He asserted that Egypt has exerted great efforts to bring about reconciliation among the conflicting Sudanese parties and that this is a fact that no one can dispute.

In an interview with MENA, Dr Koul said that the current Sudanese Government took a positive step toward peace when it accepted the peace initiative. We are now awaiting the implementation of the various provisions of that initiative, particularly the abrogation of the military protocol with Libya and the suspension of the Islamic laws by a decision from the Constituent Assembly, he said.

Koul said that a third meeting will be held between delegations from the Sudanese Government and the SPLM on 4 July. In that meeting, the SPLM will inquire about the government's action on those two points of the initiative so that preparations for the constitutional conference, slated for 18 September, may begin. Koul said that the venue for that conference has not yet been decided and that a joint committee will be set up to prepare for the conference and decide where it is to be held.

Dr Koul said that he is optimistic over the prospects of achieving peace in southern Sudan. He pointed out that fighting has ceased altogether in the south in compliance with the cease-fire. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Al-Bid Speech on 22 June Anniversary

EA2306223489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jun 89

[Radio and television address by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, marking 20th anniversary of the events of 22 June 1969 Corrective Movement, when ex-President Gahtan al-Sha'bi stepped down from the Presidency in South Yemen—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrades, masses of our great Yemeni people: Today, the people, the party, and the government celebrate a magnificent national anniversary which is dear to all our hearts, namely the 20th anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement of 22 June. On this happy occasion, I have the honor to convey warm congratulations, greetings, and best wishes to the masses of the Yemeni people and to the activists of the Yemeni Socialist Party and the Democratic Yemeni Nationalist Movement in the name of the Central Committee of our party and its Political Bureau, the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, the Council of Ministers, and the leadership of popular and official establishments. [passage omitted]

Comrades, masses of our great Yemeni people: On a day like this, 20 years ago, the revolution succeeded in correcting its course and restoring its progressive face. Now, on the 20th anniversary of the glorious corrective step, our revolution is preparing to enter a new stage of its development, that is the stage of comprehensive economic and political reform. It is a necessary transition that is dictated by the results of 20 years of progressive construction. It is necessitated by the reality of the general situation and the course of the revolution's development. [passage omitted]

Comprehensive economic and political reform means the renewal of the revolution and the development of its plans, for, when the revolution abandons the spirit of renewal, it abandons the most important element in the process of revolution. When revolutionaries stop developing revolutionary plans, they sentence the revolution to stagnation and (?failure). [passage omitted]

The process of comprehensive economic and political reform is based on an assessment of the results of 20 years of building. These were years full of tensions, during which we did not just experience major achievements, but at times seemed to pursue abortive and ineffective policies—sometimes there were leftist deviations and at other times there were rightist deviations—ineffective empiricism, steps that exceeded the needs of the moment, or were hesitant and disparate.

I repeat, once again: The past 20 years, while filled with great work, were not devoid of error which sometimes undermined the cause of the revolution, its values, and its ethics. It presented obstacles to development and reduced its scope. For this reason comprehensive economic and political reform aims to strengthen and deepen achievements, liberate the revolution from manifestations of subjugation and frustration, stimulate the energies of the people and draw them into the process of progressive construction and the creation of a broad social base—on which the revolutionary process in our country is founded—and expand social and national alliances through effective national and democratic policies that guarantee wide participation in the process of progressive construction. [passage omitted]

Democracy is the most fundamental issue in the process of reform. It is the essence of the entire process. It should be understood that democracy is a much broader thing than the newly created concepts and provisional and partial plans which are quickly converted into exaggerated slogans, the falsity of which are [word indistinct] by reality. The reform we seek based, primarily, on a firm and deep commitment to the cause of democracy: a reform which absorbs the tenets of democracy as a way of life—a course that is not only a moral one, but a successful one in enhancing economic, social, political, and cultural life. [passage omitted]

Comrades, masses of our great Yemeni people: It is not right that I should speak, at length, on [word indistinct] comprehensive economic and political reform in the southern part of the homeland and not speak on the reform and renewal in the [word indistinct] national cause of the Yemeni people and present a realistic interpretation of that cause. It is not important [words indistinct] when we talk of Yemeni unity, we should concentrate on unionist action and the extent to which it is realistic, sincere, and appropriate in terms of the dreams of, and aspirations for, unity. With great confidence, we confirm that the relations which bind the two parts have become both excellent and positive.

The obstacle of fear has melted considerably and constructive understanding has replaced tension. The climate is gradually emerging for deeper and friendlier relations. The attention of the two political leaderships and the masses of the Yemeni people in the two parts should focus primarily on those areas of agreement and they should be transformed into unionist agreements and practices in which we participate as responsible people and in which the people are involved.

We must not completely overlook our ultimate aim—which we and the masses of our Yemeni people aspire to—which is the achievement of comprehensive Yemeni unity, with Yemenis as one entity, represented in unity with an international identity free of all forms of partition and division. We accord this aim our full loyalty and support and it dominates our thoughts and our dreams. So, how do we achieve this aim? Our realism does not admit the fait accompli except in one sense, which is how we overcome the state of stagnation and move forward. Through achieving the possible today, we can create

conditions for achieving new possibilities in the future. In this way we can construct a solid foundation to our unity which will be difficult for anyone to undermine.

So long as we aspire to the establishment of a unified entity for Yemenis—a democratic entity—our steps must be democratic ones, to serve the final and great aim of our people and country. One of the principal prerequisites of a sincere effort for union is that the necessary foundations of a unitary state are established. It is unrealistic to believe that an official proclamation in a joint communique would, on its own, lead to the existence of real unity. The truth is that we must first build through the taking of tangible steps. Such a proclamation should be the culmination of our efforts, which in their totality will lead to the establishment of unity in action, rather than in words or as a dream or aspiration.

Thus, we should begin by (?identifying) that which can be the subject for agreement and joint action by the two parts, in the economy, policy, and culture, and transform that into unionist action. This action will inevitably form the basis for another agreement and another unionist action until we have before us all the components, without which Yemeni unity cannot exist.

Yemen, with its two parts, is a country which suffers from underdevelopment and inadequate resources for production. Instead of being content just to say this, we should consider unifying and coordinating economic development plans, drawing up joint development programs and participating in industrial, agricultural, tourist, and other investments.

In this way, we will not just unify the ranks, but we will create unified economic interests that will be a material basis for the political success of unity. It is no less important that the two parts should have a unified policy on matters of Yemeni sovereignty, its defense, and the evacuation of military forces from the border areas in order to consolidate stability in Yemen.

In the field of education and culture, we see the growing and special importance of unifying the curricula and we feel [word indistinct] the chances of achieving this aim. In the same way, Yemeni national culture cannot be deep-rooted and play a growing role unless we make joint efforts to spread and propagate it. The importance of this is that it builds a common Yemeni identity, which is unified from within by the existence of the same national consciousness and a single way of thinking. This is one of the most important elements of unionist action in that the unification of the people's consciousness, their ideals, their ways of thinking, and their moral and behavioral values are the human basis for setting up a merged society that is unified from within.

Within the framework of the political system, there is a realistic possibility of merging the mass organizations on a democratic basis. There should be no delay in accomplishing this task. It should be begun immediately and taken as one way of making further advances along the road of unity. We must involve (?larger numbers) of the people in the work toward unity. This is because unity is a matter of concern to the people and to the masses just as it is an issue raised for dialogue and understanding between the leaderships of the two parts.

The question of democracy will continue to have priority among the entire Yemeni people. Consideration should be given to taking joint steps which will provide a more exemplary atmosphere for practicing democracy. Such steps will ensure that basic freedoms are guaranteed and human rights safeguarded in the two parts. The existence of independent mass organizations responsible for defending human rights and exposing any transgressions of them would be accepted. Generally speaking, we can say that the potential for carrying out a program of unionist work is great. This is a reliable way of advancing toward Yemeni unity, the noble and great goal of the masses of the Yemeni people. [passage omitted]

Democratic Yemen calls anew on the states of the region to discuss formulas for fruitful cooperation and to create guarantees of stability, security, and progress in the interests of their peoples. [passage omitted]

We are of the opinion that the alliance between Syria, the Palestinian resistance, and the Lebanese nationalist movement is an essential condition for creating better circumstances for resisting Zionism and its expansionist ambitions and achieving the noble national aims of the peoples of Syria, Palestine, and Lebanon. [passage omitted]

We in Democratic Yemen experience considerable happiness at the positive development of Sino-Soviet relations. We consider that the interests of the two big socialist countries and the interests of the other socialist states, as well as liberation and peace in the world are best served by understanding and cooperation between those two countries. [passage omitted]

The situation in Latin America, particularly in Central America, remains charged with tension and danger. The United States bears full responsibility for [word indistinct] absence of peace in that part of the world. Democratic Yemen expresses its solidarity and support for the Nicaraguan Government which is trying hard to solve the dispute with other parties, without renouncing national sovereignty and independence. We also declare our solidarity with the peoples of Central America who are struggling for democracy, social progress, and an end to imperialist hegemony.

The situation in Afghanistan still gives great cause for alarm, particularly as some parties do not respect the Geneva accord on Afghanistan, but continue their sup

port for gangs opposed to the revolution. This is in spite of the fact that the Soviet Union has, for its part, implemented its commitments under the accords, by withdrawing all its military forces. The legitimate Afghan Government has not been slow to put forward numerous peace initiatives aimed at settling the dispute and preparing for dialogue with other parties. The continued support for gangs opposed to the revolution by the United States and some other parties is an abominable crime against the Afghan people and a foolish and irresponsible action. For this reason, the people of Democratic Yemen appreciate and support the Afghan people's defense of their sovereignty and territory and their right to independent development. We hail the colossal steadfastness of the Afghan Armed Forces and the masses of the Afghan people in (?repulsing) openly aggressive acts that are orchestrated from outside. This steadfastness disproves all the denigration of the Afghan revolution's strength. It confirms Afghanistan's determination and ability to protect its freedom. [passage omitted]

Let us proceed toward the future with our hearts filled with love. Let us sharpen our minds and arms and apply them to building the homeland, our great love. We want it to be a stronger, happier and more beautiful place.

Glory to the 22nd June glorious Corrective Movement.

Glory to the great Yemeni people.

Radio Reports Attempt To Kill Saddam Husayn

NC2806062689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Baghdad have disclosed that an unsuccessful assassination attempt took place against Saddam al-Takriti [Iraqi President Saddam Husayn] a few days ago.

The wife of former Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah, who was killed by Saddam several weeks ago, pulled a pistol during a family gathering attended by Saddam and tried to shoot him. However, the guards prevented her from doing so.

The Khayrallah's wife is the daughter of former President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.

Saddam Reiterates Peace Conditions

JN2406200089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1808 GMT 24 Jun 89

["Text" of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's Message to the Iraqi people, the Arab nation, and the Armed Forces on the occasion of "beginning the campaign of the reconstruction of Al-Faw" on 24 June—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O great Iraqi people. O good and zealous Arabs, wherever you may be. O dear men in all various formations and corps of the Armed Forces.

You recall, and the world recalls with you, that the fighting of your people and the sons of your nation against the enemies continued without interruption since 4 September 1980 until you achieved victory and when fighting stopped on 8 August 1988. You also recall that while the enemy was longing to achieve a flashing objective in the field of propaganda, it tried its stumbling luck along all battlefields on the border between us from northern Iraq to its south. After all these defeated attempts, during each of which—and after which it withdrew in defeat—it used to leave tens of thousands of its dead, it was able to occupy the city of Al-Faw and the triangle of territory which derived its name from Al-Faw in February 1986, after the Iraqis fought valiantly and bitterly for 42 days until it settled on it.

Despite all that took place, we should remind you that the major factor that helped the enemy occupy Al-Faw was the collusion of a number of states, foremost of which were Israel and U.S. officials headed by the former U.S. president. Documents exposed the scandal of the conspiracy that in the West was called Irangate. [passage omitted]

We reiterate our commitment to the principles that we announced in our letter on 6 August 1988, foremost of which is the commitment to UN Security Council Resolution No 598. We call on Iran to abide fully by the 8 August 1988 agreement, to which it announced its commitment; yet, it has returned to maneuver on it. Commitment to what was agreed upon to abide by encourages us to say that the bitter experience of 8 years of war have given fruits to an extent of wisdom that have departed the minds of the officials there throughout and before the war when they ignited the war. We hope that other serious steps will be taken so that we can proceed together on the path of peace in order that each side of us will live in its country reassured about itself—its possessions, territory, sanctities, principles, and options—aside from ambitions, arrogance, or interference in others' affairs.

The officials in Iran must recall in all their steps all the tragedies of the war, the millions of their people who died or were wounded in this war, and the opportunities they and others have lost. When their readiness will be like ours in proceeding on the path of peace and when they relinquish their ambitions in others' rights, then we will be able together, under UN auspices, to achieve honorable peace for all sides as quickly as possible after the result of war has become clear to everyone.

We tell those who may be concerned in Iran or internationally that they should realize that the honorable peace we are seeking for all parties is not attainable by compromising any clear Iraqi right or any clear Arab right. They must prove their good faith by an immediate and comprehensive exchange of all prisoners of war and by refraining from making humans a commodity for bargaining and by abiding by the clear relevant Geneva Convention. They must also use methods and behavior leading to peace. In the spirit of this line, we are declaring our preparedness for a prompt exchange of prisoners who have been held for too long in captivity—since the beginning of the war—in accordance with known prisoner swap quotas.

Iranians: The road to peace has been opened for you by a people who believe in it and whose military victory has not so gone to their head as to let them deviate from the path of right and peace or to avenge themselves for the tragedy that has befallen them as a result of the war. You must desist from sounding the trumpets of war and feverishly seeking the purchase and stockpiling of weapons. This is because if Iran does not pose a threat to others, no one will threaten it. Save the funds of the Iranians to heal their war wounds to spare their human dignity, endangered by deprivation and cultural and social backwardness. Follow the path we are pursuing—that is, the road of peace—and hold yourself to the direct talks agreement that you reneged on and reduce the number of your fighters so that you give them the opportunity to live in peace and provide Iran with the chance of a better life through construction and development.

As for us, we have proved and still are proving our faith in what we say. There is no more eloquent testimony to our truthfulness than the disbandment of over 200,000 fighters since the cease-fire. In contrast, you are increasing the number of those whom you call volunteers or reserve conscripts in the tradition of war rather than peace. We have decided on disbanding one of our corps and rehabilitated the city of Basra, which lies within the range of your guns. From 25 June 1989, we will, with God's help, begin to rehabilitate the city of Al-Faw, which is also within the range of your guns.

Coupled with a return to normal life, this goes to demonstrate our genuine peace intentions and that the purchase and stockpiling of weapons on your end and boosting the size of your Armed Forces are indicative of a path other than that of peace. Hopeful that a reminder will sever a good purpose, we remind you that the 8-year tragic war and the final outcome of which became clear to you and to the whole world was finally brought to a halt on 8 August 1988, not because your army is small or because you possessed few weapons. You maintained large armies with vast numbers deployed along all fronts. You had clear superiority at some stages of the war in many weapons systems, with the air and naval forces and infantry topping the list. But what has been the fate of all this superiority? It has been destroyed, not because it was superior in absolute terms but because it was on the wrong side and the intentions and behavior were at odds with the laws of the times. Among the key laws of the times is the removal of the seeds of hate, aggression, and expansion at the expense of others and working for peace earnestly and demonstrably. Failure to work demonstrably and tangibly is bound to drive those at the other end to be cautious. Cautiousness may lead to increased potential of evil and igniting fires that we do not want and it does not meet the will of our peoples and those of the region. This is in addition to the fact that it is at variance with values that we and humanity cherish.

When we urge Iran to foreswear the fever of arming, it is because we know that the arms merchants and the circles wielding influence over this trade had a part to play in sparking off the war and that reactivating relations with them so feverishly through the black market and open markets can only encourage them to feed the anxiety of the countries of the region of renewed hostilities so that they increase their arms purchases. This is in addition to other aims. Besides creating an atmosphere of anxiety over the future, this may put the region at risk. Whereas the party advocating peace, reconstruction, and stability will have its supporters. The supporters of this path will be so encouraged as to help to stabilize peace and stability and work to encourage the countries of the region and cooperate with them in the field of reconstruction and development.

I have conveyed the message. May God be witness to me. God is great and may right prevail over wrong. God is great, and glory be to the Arabs. God is great, and glory to Iraq. God is great, and ignominy for the defeatists.

Signed: Saddam Husayn, 21 Dhul-Qa'dah 1409 hejira, corresponding to 24 June 1989

Paper Cited on Syrian 'Maneuvering' in Lebanon

JN2506095689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0714 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad 25 Jun (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has affirmed that the Syrian regime will get out of Lebanon, whether it likes or not, and that the rockets and artillery shells falling on the Lebanese people will not cover up this regime's maneuvering.

In its comment today, the paper says: Withdrawal of Syrian, Zionist, and Iranian forces from Lebanon serves two objectives: First, it fulfills a Lebanese national desire and the Lebanese people's struggle for freedom and stability. Second, it changes the grim picture drawn by the Damascus rulers for the Syrian Army and its national prestige.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Shuffling cards in Lebanon no longer works for the Syrian regime.

The paper affirms: The Syrian regime is trying to gain time to prolong the illegitimate presence of its troops in Lebanon. By meddling in security and political affairs, the Syrian regime tries to hamper the endeavors of the tripartite Arab committee tasked with tackling the Lebanese issue.

Press Calls on Iran To Show 'Readiness for Peace'

JN2606103889 Baghdad INA in English 0920 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Baghdad, June 26, INA—Iraqi newspapers today called upon Iran to demonstrate readiness for peace and said that Iran is called to seriously and tangibly work for peace.

AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party,editorially said that an opportunity is available before the rulers of Iran to proceed along the path of peace and change their political course, which the events of ten years proved its complete failure.

It pointed out that when Iran is ready, then we would be capable under the supervision of the United Nations to achieve an honorable peace for all and as soon as possible.

The Iraqi papers commentary came following the message addressed by President Saddam Husayn to the sons of Iraq and the Arab nation last Friday on occasion of starting the drive of reconstructing the southern Iraqi town of Al-Faw.

AL-THAWRAH said that Iraq resolved to adopt further steps and measures that confirm its principled and peaceful stand in proceeding along the path of peace

leading among which [is the] commitment to Security Council Resolution No 598 and the call upon Iran to commit to the agreement of August 1988.

It added that evidences confirming Iraq's adherence to realise a lasting and comprehensive peace was the demobilization of 200 thousands of combatants and dissolving the Special First Army Corps... completing the reconstruction of Al-Basrah and starting a grand national drive for reconstructing the southern town of Al-Faw.

AL-THAWRAH said that Iraq is tangibly works [as received] for peace while Iran did not make anything towards this effect.

AL-THAWRAH daily added that the Iranian regime and its suspicious stances arouse doubts of the seriousness of its acceptance of Resolution No 598.

It said that Iran should seriously think that its loss and defeat in the war was not because of lack in mobilizing its own forces or weapons for it had big armies and possessed huge quantities of arms in addition to its purchases of big quantities of weapons and military hardware.

It pointed that Iran loss [as received] the war because it was not right and was waging an expansionist and aggressive war contradicting with all laws of the era and its human values.

AL-THAWRAH further said that Iran should table a practical evidence proving its good intention leading among which the immediate and comprehensive exchange of prisoners of war and commitment to the clear principles of Geneva Conventions in this regard.

In his message last Friday, President Husayn announced Iraq's full readiness to exchange prisoners of war who had spent a long time in captivity especially from the beginning of the war and until the end of the year 1982.

AL-THAWRAH stressed that Iran behaves irresponsibly and had not benefitted from the bitter experiences in the war and did not discard its political course and sick dreams of expansion at the expense of the others.

AL-THAWRAH daily further added that Iran was still beating the drums of war and resorting to maneuvering and bargaining on Iraq's firm and legitimate rights and that throughout the past ten months feverishly attempted to purchase peace from official international and black markets.

More dangerous than that, the daily pointed out, the Iranian regime worked for increasing the number of its Armed Forces through increasing numbers of volunteers and reservists.

It said that these suspicious moves mean that the ruling regime in Iran has not absorbed the clear lessons and results of the destructive war which the peoples of Iran were still suffering from.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily, commenting on the same subject, stressed that Iraq wants and believes in peace and is committed to it regardless to the situation along the battlefronts.

It said that Iran officials' behaviours arouse doubts of their intentions and are feverishly work for buying and stockpiling weapons and also increasing the volume of their Armed Forces in a way proving unseriousness in implementing Resolution 598 and reaching a lasting and comprehensive peace.

It added that Iranian officials need to remember the tragedies of the war and that they were defeated because of their aggression and greeds in Iraq's territory and attempt to turn it into a stepping-board for invading the entire region.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily urged rulers of Iran to understand the meanings of the message of President Saddam Husayn addressed last Friday, for this message was a new declaration for welfare and peace and a declaration to anybody concerned of peace in the region and the world over.

It said that Iranian rulers are called to assist Iran to proceed along the path of peace and avoid revival of any old or new imaginations.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. 'Procrastination'

TA2706151989 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 26 Jun 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Justifications and Excuses"]

[Text] The latest excuse put forward by the U.S. Administration for its procrastination in seeking a political settlement in the region is that it is awaiting the results of the voting on the Israeli Government's plan regarding this settlement on July 5 by members of the Central Committee of the Israeli Likud Party, headed by Yitzhaq Shamir; as if this party, which controls various institutions in Israel, beginning with the government and ending with the local authorities and councils, will deviate from the "plans" that Washington supports and to which it is devoting its ceaseless efforts in the current stage.

The U.S. justification, based on the polarization crisis in the Likud, is flimsy and irrational. Contrary to Washington's excuse for its dawdling steps, observers note that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker backed down several days ago from some of his previous statements, such as calling at the AIPAC conference on the Israeli Government to abandon the "dream of Greater Israel." He even wished that he had dropped this phrase from his famous speech in that conference. Observers see in this intentional retreat a negative U.S. step and a sign of further support for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, his Likud Party, and his proposed plan. This is at a time when numerous parties were expecting the U.S. Administration to exert serious pressure, or at least "semiserious" pressure, on Shamir's government and party with the aim of achieving a balance in the dialogue among all the concerned parties in the region.

At any rate, a U.S. source said recently that Washington will not pressure Shamir. Apparently the interpretation of this statement in U.S. policy is this renewed support for Shamir in contrast to the escalating pressure on the PLO and all the Arab capitals.

Thus it seems clear that the U.S. Administration is very confident of the Likud meeting's results in 10 days time. Its decision to accelerate its steps, should such a decision be adopted in the first place, will not be linked to these results as much as in fact to the results of pressures on the Arab side.

Arens on Ties With USSR, European Summit

TA2806065589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Arye Golan—live]

[Excerpt] [Golan] Good morning, Mr Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Golan] We are glad we managed to get hold of you. We meant to speak to you immediately following Gid'on Remez' report from Armenia on the wounded being brought for treatment in Israel.

[Arens] Yes, I heard the report.

[Golan] In your opinion, does this act have any political significance or a solely humanitarian effect?

[Arens] I believe it also has political consequences, because the Soviet Union has changed and is now a country in which public opinion plays a part. Perhaps public opinion is still not decisive, but it has an influence. Considering that public opinion was hostile to Israel for many years as a result of the anti-Israeli propaganda disseminated by the Soviet Administration, anything that leads to a change in this opinion and to a feeling of friendship and perhaps even gratitude for Israel's efforts to help the Soviet people will, in my opinion, influence government decisions.

[Golan] Do you also believe, like our representative in Moscow Arye Levin, that the day when we will witness direct El Al flights to Moscow is not far away?

[Arens] Well, the statement that the days is not far away is not a quantitative definition. I do not know when this will happen, but I assume that if the normalization process is indeed completed—and I hope that this will be the case—there will be direct flights.

[Golan] Yes. With your permission, let us move one to the decisions taken in the European summit in Madrid. You must be disappointed with the decisions.

[Arens] In view of my expectations, I am not disappointed. I was in Europe just recently, and I met with several European foreign ministers. I learned that in decisions such as these, the European Community acts according to the lowest common denominator, and it finds it difficult to abandon decisions taken in the past, even if these rulings are no longer relevant. I told my colleagues, the European foreign ministers, that there is no point in calling for an international conference. After all, they have no intention of inviting the PRC or its prime minister to participate in the peace efforts in the region. Nobody contradicted this statement. But if they decided a few years ago that they support an international conference, then they have to support it this time as well.

[Goren] They called for the inclusion of the PLO in this international conference. Despite this call, would you claim that the PLO's string of successes has been broken?

[Arens] I think we have really taken a turn for the better in terms of our international political position and in the world community. I would not say we have achieved the success to which we aspire, but after approximately 2

years of almost consecutive political coups by the terrorist organizations, I think that today we are back in the picture and have begun improving our position. [passage omitted]

Ministry on EC's 'Old, Unbalanced Formulas'

TA2706193389 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Excerpts] The EC foreign ministers have called for bringing the PLO into the Middle East peace process. This was the EC first statement on the Middle East in 9 years. [passage omitted] The Israeli Foreign Ministry reacted: From a first review of the EC resolution it becomes apparent that despite our hopes, it does not contain unequivocal EC support for the Israeli peace initiative with all of its components. It becomes apparent that the European countries have not yet abandoned the old, unbalanced formulas that have so far failed to promote the peace process in the Middle East.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 27 June in a similar report adds the following remarks by the Foreign Ministry spokesman: "The European countries could substantially contribute to the advancement of the peace process by expressing a full and unreserved support for Israel's initiative." "Nonetheless, Israel welcomes the EC call on the Arab states to establish true peace relations with Israel. This issue was and still is the core of the conflict."]

Plan To Settle Soviet Jews in W. Bank Proposed

TA2806103089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Today David Levi, the deputy prime minister and construction and housing minister, is presenting a plan consolidated with settlement leaders in Judaea and Samaria. The plan visualizes every family of settlers adopting and absorbing an immigrant family. In this way the settlers would be involved in absorbing the waves of immigrants expected to arrive from the Soviet Union. Minister Levi said this in the course of a tour of the Binyamin District settlements. Our correspondent Moti Amir accompanied him on the tour.

[Begin recording] [Amir] Minister David Levi began his tour in the settlements of Na'ale and Nili, where he informed the settlers that a new road that will connect them to the Ya'ar Ben-Shemen road will be completed this year. In the settlement of Talmon he announced that he has approved the expansion of the temporary settlement there up to 25 housing units. Minister Levi ended his tour in Ma'ale Levona, where he conferred with the heads of the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlements. In this talk, the minister said that the settlement development momentum will continue and that in addition to the 1,000 apartments sold in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza last year, his ministry will begin building an additional 1,500 apartments in these regions.

[Levi] We will do a few things, including continuing to pave the Jerusalem-Gush 'Ezyon road, the Ma'ale Bet Horon road, and others, and we will begin paving these roads already this year.

[Amir] At the end of the meeting with the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza settlements leaders, Minister Levi attended the inauguration of the permanent site of the settlement of Ma'ale Levona. Construction of 24 housing units has been completed there, and the families will move into them from their temporary structures. Minister Levi emphasized that settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will play an important role in absorbing the expected immigration.

[Levi] The plan we worked out in the framework of this large national project stipulates that every family of settlers will adopt an immigrant family and that we will build permanent apartments for new immigrants in the settlements. If the immigrants do not come for whatever reason, these apartments will be used for the absorption of other families, with the associations [not further identified] shouldering both the risks and obligations. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Baraq Says Israeli Military Power Deters Syria

TA2506083289 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 25 Jun 89 p 4

[Excerpt] At a memorial ceremony for Lieutenant General Yosef (Sefi) Shauman, who fell in the Lebanon war, Major General Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff, said the only reason the Syrians and other Arab countries do not attack Israel is Israel's military superiority and the strength of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

Only their physical inability, of which they are aware, prevents them from starting a war. Although Syria is prepared for war, and equipped with the latest weaponry, it is deterred by our military superiority, Gen Baraq said. [passage omitted]

Rabin Addresses 'Arab Military Threat'

TA2806052589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] Defense Minister Rabin says the Arab military threat continues to be the central problem for Israel's security establishment. Rabin says Iraq and Syria, should they achieve a reconciliation, would have a combined force of 10,000 tanks against Israel. Both countries, as well as Saudi Arabia, possess missiles that can reach Tel Aviv. Rabin was speaking last night to the Jewish Agency.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 28 June adds that Rabin believes that Israel should "take a very serious view of the fact that Iraq, Syria, and Libya produce large quantities of chemical weapons."]

On another subject, the defense minister said he believes the Palestinians in the territories will agree to participate in Israel's peace initiative. He said the main obstacle is PLO terrorism.

[Begin Rabin recording] I believe if there will be a removal of the threat of terror on the Palestinians in the territories, many of them will come and say: Let us start; let us start on the basics. We might have our own terms, but we accept in principle your approach to move from here to a permanent solution by phases, to have elections. I had the opportunity after the cabinet decision to meet with Palestinian leaders—West Bankers, Gazans—and I sense it, regardless of what they say. [end recording]

Shamir on Intifadah, Peace Prospects

AU2706211289 Vienna Television Service in German 1907 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Hans Benedict; date and place not given; interview in English with superimposed German translation—recorded]

[Text] [Benedict] Your general chief of staff, General Dan Shomron, has stated that the popular uprising cannot be crushed unless mass deportations are carried out, unless the Palestinians are starved to death, or unless a genocide is carried out.

[Shamir] Of course, we are not thinking of a genocide, of starving them to death, or of transfers. However, there are other means and ways.

[Benedict] Mr Prime Minister, if your peace initiative fails, if it is not implemented in the near future, will you annex Judea and Samaria?

[Shamir] I cannot decide on this now and I will not tell you anything. I think that these speculations are useless. What we want to achieve now is to get the peace process underway in order to create a basis for a solution to the conflict.

[Benedict] Mr Prime Minister, many people in Israel are asking how much longer Israel will have to live with the popular uprising.

[Shamir] This is the problem of the other side. This depends on the Palestinians. We will not live forever with this uprising. There is a limit to our patience.

[Benedict] Where is your limit?

[Shamir] I cannot say where it is, but I think I know that we will soon put an end to this.

[Benedict] By what means?

[Shamir] By means of everything that is necessary to stop the atrocities that cause great damage, more on the other side than our side. First of all, we have to put an end to this irrational situation in which all Arab states are still in a state of war with us. There is no justification for this. What we want is to change this situation. We must establish formal peace treaties between Israel and all Arab states. At least we must conclude agreements on halting the hostilities. I think that if we achieve that, the whole climate in the Middle East will change. What happens is that all European governments and even the United States are telling me that the Arab heads of states are claiming all the time that they have no intentions of destroying the state of Israel and of waging a war with it. Therefore I say they should reaffirm this in public and act accordingly.

3 Youths Wounded by IDF in Gaza Strip

TA2706135189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Three youths were slightly wounded in Rafah after hurling stones at soldiers. During the dispersal of the demonstration, the three were wounded and transferred to al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus. Our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv reports that quiet prevailed in the rest of the Gaza Strip while only a few left for work in Israel.

Police Name Settler as Killer of Palestinian

TA2706164989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Ramallah detectives resolved the killing of a resident of the village of Qaraqat Bani Zayd. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the police have substantial evidence showing that Me'ir Berg of the settlement of Pesagot is the person who killed the young man in an olive grove near the village. Ari'el Begun, a student at a yeshiva in the settlement of Bet El, fired into the village causing damage to property.

The police will ask for an extension of the remand orders against the two, and it seems likely that they will agree to release the other five detainees. The police evidence is based on the findings by the criminal identification laboratory and testimony by the settlers released on Saturday night. He told interrogators that as far as he remembered only two of the hikers fired their weapons, one in the village center and the other in the olive grove.

IDF Soldier Slightly Injured in Incident

TA2706201689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] This afternoon an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly wounded by a stone thrown at him near the money-changers' market in downtown Gaza. An ITIM [ITONUT YISRA'EL ME'UGEDET—NEWS AGENCY OF THE ASSOCIATED ISRAEL PRESS,

LTD.] correspondent reports that the stones were thrown after settlers came to pray on the site where there used to be a synagogue. The area was closed for 2 hours.

3 Youths Wounded in Tulkarm Refugee Camp

TA2806082089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] An Arab youth was severely wounded in the head and eye by a plastic bullet in the Tulkarm refugee camp last night. This was reported from the Ramallah hospital. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that two other youths are said to have been slightly wounded in the course of disturbances which took place in the camp. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating.

The curfew on the Tulkarm refugee camp has been in effect for over 2 weeks.

Bomb Explodes in Ramla; 4 Casualties

TA2806094489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Four people were wounded when a bomb exploded near the central bus station on Herzl Street in Ramla. One sustained medium to severe injuries, while the other three were slightly wounded. All four were transferred to Asaf Harofe Hospital. The small bomb had been placed in a garbage can. Large police forces are at the site, and Herzl Street was reopened to traffic a short while ago. [passage omitted]

Arabs Stabbed in 'Revenge'

TA2806101989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Two Arabs were stabbed in the Ramla market a short while ago by Jewish thugs who wanted to take revenge for the planting of a bomb on the main road of the town. The wounded Arabs were hospitalized in Asaf Harofe Hospital, and their condition is unknown as yet. This is reported by our correspondent Yisra'el Peretz. The police closed the Ramla market area but have not yet detained anyone. [passage omitted]

Continued U.S. Support for Elections Questioned

JN2806062289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jun 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Is Washington Blind?]

[Text] As if the existing juridical control over Israel's oppressive treatment of the struggling Palestinians is not already lax enough, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin is now demanding that legal supervision of the occupying regime be further relaxed to facilitate arbitrary deportation of Palestinians, expeditious demolition of their homes and extension of their detention without trial from six months to one year. This is in effect Rabin's prescription for ending the Palestinian intifadah [uprising]. What is astonishing about this new escalation in Israeli tactics to suffocate the Palestinian uprising is that it comes in the wake of Rabin's earlier admission that there were no magic cures for the Palestinian uprising, and that arbitrary measures, such as mass deportation or transfer of Palestinians, will simply fail to abort Palestinian aspirations for a sensible political solution. What brought about this contradiction in Rabin's personal assessment of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip cannot be explained except by the fact that Israeli leaders, in their panic, are confused on how to put an end to the uprising.

When this apparent confusion in Israel's thinking on the Palestinian intifadah is viewed in conjunction with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's admission before an Israeli parliamentary committee Monday that his election scheme for the occupied territories was nothing but a publicity stunt that aims at ending the Palestinian uprising when everything else had failed, it becomes all the more clearer that Israel's principle concern is not to seek a reasonable and just resolution of the Palestinian conflict. Given these realities which cannot be so obscure to Washington as well, isn't it surprising that the U.S. is still supportive of the election proposal as cooked up by Shamir? Would it not be more constructive of Washington to serve notice on Shamir that all his efforts to drum up support and recognition for his election ploy will fall on deaf ears as long as Shamir's strategic plan simply calls for aborting the Palestinian revolt against occupation and the denial of their right to self-determination? How else can one interpret Rabin's request for a free hand to strangulate the Palestinian yearning for liberty and Shamir's confession that his election ploy is nothing but a deceitful public relations gesture?

'Clarification of U.S. Stand' Asked

JN2306085389 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Jun 89 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "A Clarification of the U.S. Stand Is Required"]

[Text] At a time when Arab efforts have succeeded in alerting world public opinion to the Israeli occupation authorities' repressive measures against the defenseless Palestinians, Israel continues to intensify these measures with complete disregard for world public opinion, the Arab stand, the UN resolutions, and the Geneva conventions.

Israel will continue to behave in this way as long as it enjoys the support of the United States, which uses its veto rights against any UN resolution condemning Israel.

Only yesterday, the Israeli occupation forces moved their border markers forward to include 20 square km of southern Lebanese territory into the Zionist entity despite the presence of the UN peacekeeping forces in the area.

Therefore, no matter how we try to urge nations to stop Israel's crimes and aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and their territories, Israel will continue to expand and violate Arab sanctities and territorial rights. Our efforts are useless so long as Israel continues to enjoy U.S. protection.

Since Zionist aggression continues to hamper current peace efforts to achieve the just, lasting, and comprehenive solution which was unanimously approved by the Arab countries at their last summit, there is only one recourse; the Arabs must go en masse to the gateway of the solution in Washington. A clarification of the U.S. stand would spare Arab diplomacy any further waste of effort, so long as the United States continues to sponsor Israel's expansionist aggression in the Arab World.

Every Arab must understand these facts. It is time we acted on the basis of this conclusion. There is no need to exert further peace efforts to convince Israel about the advantages of just and lasting peace, because Israel itself was essentially established to serve as an expansionist and aggressive entity in our Arab homeland. It has been practicing this aggression in all of its worst forms inside and outside occupied Palestine since its establishment.

When Arab diplomacy realizes the impossibility to achieve peace with the Zionist entity according to the Arab and international peace concept, it will realize the big gains it will reap by stopping this useless dialogue and concentrating on building the intrinsic Arab power in order to face the challenges and dangers surrounding the Arab homeland from the ocean to the Gulf.

Paper Urges New Cease-Fire in Lebanon

JN2606103689 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Jun 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Lebanon: Problem and Solution!"]

[Text] We are following with concern the artillery shelling of Christian areas in Lebanon and the clashes with rockets and automatic weapons on the Suq al-Gharb front across the contact lines dividing Beirut. The blood

which is being shed is the blood of our people, and the country which is being constantly destroyed is our country and a dear part of our nation.

Attention is focused on the important Arab role in solving the Lebanese problem and ending the tragedy which has overburdened our Lebanese brothers for more than 14 years.

Here lies the important role played by the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon, which is due to meet tomorrow in the Algerian city of Oran. We call on this committee first and foremost to achieve a new cease-fire to save Lebanon from the bloodbath that has been continuing for months. There is no doubt that this will require ending the siege of Lebanese ports from the land and the sea, and halting arms supplies to General 'Awn's militias to make all warring factions agree on the principle of cease-fire.

The attention of all Arabs, and Lebanese in particular, is turned toward Oran where the tripartite Arab committee members: King Fahd, King Hassan II, and President Chadli Bendjedid, will meet. All hopes are pinned on this tripartite summit to provide Lebanon with the remedy that heals the wounds and the solution that brings relief to people, settles the conflict, and puts an end to the painful tragedy.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' visited Morocco, Libya, and Algeria to convey messages from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to the leaders of these countries, hopefully this falls within the context of expediting the intended solution.

It is unacceptable and unreasonable for the bleeding to continue and the bombs to resound in the skies of Beirut while the Israeli occupation forces are enjoying calm and maintaining their occupation of Lebanese territory without facing any resistance.

All Lebanese are called upon to immediately implement the cease-fire, and the parties concerned are called upon to end siege of ports, open the crossing points, and stop arms supplies to various Lebanese warring militias.

That is the problem and this is the solution which, we believe, the tripartite committee is capable of persuading all parties to implement.

Jordanian-Palestinian Committee Meets in Amman

JN2706180089 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] The Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee at noon today held its 40th meeting at the Foreign Ministry. The Jordanian side was headed by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Palestinian side by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas.

The committee reviewed the situation of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and discussed the subjects on its agenda. These included the goals it wishes to attain represented by working toward helping the Palestinians under the yoke of Israeli occupation to remain steadfast over their soil and aid them in confronting their sufferings as a result of the continued occupation.

Lack of Contributions Noted

JN2806061889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Jun 89 p 1

[By Raniyah 'Atallah]

[Text] Amman—Lack of positive Arab response to repeated efforts to collect due contributions has virtually pushed a joint Jordanian-Palestinian fund into a state of immobility, and the fund will now serve as a Palestinian data bank until such time the due funds are collected, according to a senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

The PLO official, who requested anonymity, told the JORDAN TIMES that Jordan and the PLO would seek through bilateral contacts with donor states to collect the more than $500 million owed to the Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to Support the Steadfastness of the Palestinian People.

The official, asked to comment on the outcome of a meeting here Tuesday between Deputy Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and a PLO delegation, said the committee would serve as an information centre and data bank on Palestinian issues pending the collection of the funds, which it was promised at the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit.

The official said that during Tuesday's meeting, the fortieth of the joint committee, both sides agreed that the 11-year-old fund was a "valuable resource" which should be kept alive to help efforts to end Israel's occupation of Arab lands.

"Financial allocations (from Arab countries) are almost frozen," he said. "But we are intent on keeping the fund despite those difficulties... and both sides will continue their efforts to try to get Arab states to honour their commitments," he added.

Reporting on Tuesday's meeting, the Jordan news agency PETRA, said the talks, which were headed on the Jordanian side by Al-Qasim and on the Palestinian side by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, focused on the situation in the occupied territories and on means of supporting the 1.7 million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation.

Arab leaders pledged in 1978 to give the joint Jordan-PLO fund $100 million every year for 10 years. According to the PLO official, less than half that sum has been

paid so far. The biggest donor state and which to pay its commitment in full was Saudi Arabia. The other designated contributors—Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, Libya, Algeria and the United Arab Emirates—met their obligations only in part.

Finance Minister Briefs Cabinet on Economy

JN2806070489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] Amman—The Council of Ministers held a session last night under the chairmanship of His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir to discuss the national economic reform program and the setting of a new financial and economic framework. Finance Minister Basil Jardanah presented a detailed report on the main principles of the economic reform program, which was drawn up between the Jordanian Government and the IMF.

The national reform program is aimed at achieving an internal and external financial balance and allowing the national development process to continue within the framework of monetary and economic stability. This program requires good management of the available national revenues in the kingdom in accordance with demand and is also aimed at achieving strict control over government expenditure and general consumption, encouraging national saving and using it for investment, and increasing exports.

The national program is also aimed at achieving a balance between local revenues for the treasury and government expenditure and well as a balance between Jordan's foreign currency revenues from its exports of goods and services and its imports of goods and services.

On the external level, the national reform program is exerting joint efforts in cooperation with the IMF and the World Bank to reschedule Jordan's foreign debt in order to bridge the gap between Jordan's payments and receipts of foreign currency so that Jordan can restore its foreign currency reserves.

In addition to the national effort, the financial reform program includes cooperation with creditor governments and foreign banks in order to reschedule part of Jordan's foreign debts. Therefore, a preliminary meeting between the Jordanian Government and the creditor banks will be held in London in the first week of July to agree on the principle of rescheduling its loans. This will be followed by another expanded meeting in Paris in the second half of July to include creditor governments in order to reschedule Jordan's debts.

This process is viewed as a necessary step to achieve an international and external balance in Jordan's economy so that Jordan can meet its external obligations and at the same time continue its economic development process on sound national bases.

King Husayn Addresses Mu'tah University Graduates

JN2706115289 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that Jordan would always remain honest to the principles calling for unity and solidarity among all Arabs. Speaking to the second batch of graduate officers from Mu'tah University, his majesty said Jordan is determined to achieve a better future for the forthcoming generations, because our destiny is linked to that of the Arab nation. He called on the graduates to shoulder the responsibility of preserving Arab sovereignty over the Arab land and to keep up the values of Arab personality in the framework of economic and security integration.

His majesty the king told the graduate officers that the Jordanian Armed Forces, carriers of the banner of the great Arab revolt, would keep up defending the rights and causes of the Arab nation. His majesty added that the Jordanian Army will continue to be the shield protecting the longest frontline with the enemy.

Sa'adah Reacts to Arab Committee Resolutions

NC2806074089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Following his meeting with Patriarch Sufayr, Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah said that he cannot comment on the resolutions adopted by the Higher Arab committee in Oran before these resolutions are implemented on the ground.

Asked if he would respond to an invitation to visit Saudi Arabia as a deputy, Dr Sa'adah said: Before I respond to the invitation, I would like to say that we have a basic condition, namely that the situation returns to normal and the blockades imposed on the eastern areas are lifted. Also, why should we have to go beyond Lebanese borders if the crossing points are reopened? If these points are reopened, Lebanese would be able to meet in Lebanon, and specifically in the Chamber of Deputies.

These remarks were made by Sa'adah following his meeting with Patriarch Sufayr during which they discussed the topics that the patriarch had dealt with at the Vatican.

Al-Huss Comments on Statement

NC2806090489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] Commenting on the resolutions adopted by the Arab committee in Oran, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said: We declare our full respect for the statement issued by the tripartite summit in Oran and our readiness to cooperate with whatever the higher Arab committee decides on to help end Lebanon's ordeal.

The prime minister went on to say: We are waiting for the full text of the resolutions adopted by the tripartite committee and any explanations which may throw more light on the details and background of the situation so that we can determine the steps we should take to facilitate the committee's task and help it implement its resolutions.

Asked his opinion about General 'Awn's position toward the Arab move, Prime Minister al-Huss said: It is regrettable that Gen 'Awn adopted a negative stand before the outcome of the tripartite committee was known. Such a position is bound to obstruct the committee's task, which is aimed at salvaging Lebanon, Al-Huss added. Prime Minister al-Huss went on to say that in his press statement published today, Gen 'Awn casts doubt on the usefulness of the Arab initiative and reaffirms his reliance on the issue of internationalization by presenting the Lebanese issue at the United Nations. We have warned against taking such a step and its possible effect on Lebanon's fate, Dr al-Huss added.

Dr al-Huss said: Gen 'Awn has surprisingly stated that the meeting of the Lebanese deputies outside Lebanon to discuss the draft solutions would be a surrender of Lebanon's sovereignty. The least we can say about such a stand is that 'Awn rejects the political contents of the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon.

'Awn Interview on Arab Committee Work Cited

NC2706174989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] In an interview with Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS to be published tomorrow, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has expressed disappointment with the Arabs because they have become more absorbed in tackling the consequences of the crisis than in tackling its causes. He is apprehensive about slow action and fears that the tripartite committee will try to reach some kind of compromise that will not serve Lebanon's interests.

Gen 'Awn expressed his belief that the Lebanese issue can only be solved in the United Nations because Syria is linking its withdrawal with that of Israel and vice versa. He added that if our problem is not solved through the United Nations or through Al-Naqurah negotiations, we will have no option but the resistance to liberate the south. He said Israel has tried to approach him but you know what the answer was.

He underlined his willingness to establish fraternal relations and reasonable agreements with Syria but said that he will not visit Damascus before reaching an agreement on Syria's withdrawal from Lebanon and that he is willing to implement the Arab defense pact with Syria.

'Awn said that he has found no shift in the U.S. stand apart from some cosmetic changes. He added: Washington has asked Damascus to enter into a dialogue with me after becoming convinced that public opinion is with me. He said: Let no one think that my resources are limited. I might set the world on fire for Lebanon's sake. We said that Lebanon is a sum of good things but they belittled us. We said: Let it then be a sum of discomfort unbearable to the entire world. And that is what will happen.

Gen 'Awn went on to say: They might overrun the presidential palace and I might be flattened under the Syrian tanks like a loaf of bread but this will not mean a loss. I will win even if they kill me. I will not sign a blank check for anyone. No one can reach a solution in the Middle East in Lebanon's absence.

Regarding ammunition, he said: I do not have enough depots to store them.

Regarding the travel of deputies to Riyadh, he said that this is tantamount to the abolition of Lebanon's sovereignty. He added that he has no objection to Dr Salim al-Huss being elected president of the republic.

Hizballah on Maydun Fighting, Hostage Issue

NC2806082589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Excerpts] [Hizballah official] His Eminence Ibrahim al-Amin has affirmed the importance of the confrontation which took place between the Islamic resistance and the Zionist enemy in steadfast Maydun last Friday [23 June]. [passage omitted]

This came during a news conference which Hizballah held in Beirut yesterday to explain the implications of this heroic confrontation, which forced the enemy to retreat from the battleground in defeat after suffering several casualties.

After stressing the close link between confronting the enemy and standing against those who are responsible for the internal Lebanese crisis, Al-Amin said: Any attempt to belittle the dangers of the Zionist entity or to wager on the possibility of coexistence with it is considered a betrayal of this nation and a squandering of its future and destiny. The Zionist entity is nothing but a cancerous growth which is striving to infiltrate the area gradually. Therefore, the only solution that will lead to security and just and lasting peace in the region lies is the total removal of this cancerous growth. [passage omitted]

Al-Amin then answered questions from journalists. Asked whether Iranian brothers are participating in the confrontation against Israel, he stressed that Iranian forces are not participating directly in the confrontation with the enemy because of certain circumstances, even though the brother Muslim Iranians would be only too pleased to confront the Zionists. He praised the role of the Revolutionary Guards in raising morale and creating a revolutionary society similar to Iranian society.

On the Red Cross' efforts to secure the release of the strugglers who are held in the occupation forces' prisons in return for the release of the enemy's dead and prisoners, Al-Amin said: The release of detainees in al-Khiyam and in occupied Palestine is something we seek to achieve with whatever is possible and in ways we feel achieve the higher Islamic interest.

On Hizballah's stand on the hostage issue, Al-Amin said: We have repeatedly affirmed that we are not concerned with this isue and have absolutely nothing to do with it. Regardless of whether the kidnappers are wrong or right, we will never support or defend the U.S. or enemy's positions on the hostage issue. We support our people and their cause. We support the oppressed and the weak. We do not support the arrogant powers. We will not adopt stands against the oppressed even if they commit mistakes.

Location of Iranian Battalions Reported

NC2806093089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] Security sources have disclosed that the two Iranian battalions which entered Lebanon recently have taken up positions in two fortresses near the villages of al-Qubayyat and 'Andaqat. The deployment of the two battalions took place under the supervision of the Syrian forces.

'Violent Clashes' Along Mountain Combat Lines

NC2706192189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] The Syrian occupation troops have been continuing their acts of aggression against the Lebanese Army positions along the Dahr al-Wahsh combat lines since 2020 this evening. Violent clashes, involving machine guns, rockets, artillery, and tanks, are taking place along these combat lines at this time. The Syrian occupation forces are shelling the residential areas adjacent to the contact lines, particularly in Bsus, al-Jumhur, al-Kahhalah, and 'Arayya. A number of shells fell on some areas in central al-Matn.

Skirmishes Continue 28 Jun

NC2806054789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] Skirmishes involving the use of machine guns and rockets have been going on along Beirut combat lines since 0730 today. The clashes began in the Old Market area and later expanded to Sodeco. A short while ago, the al-'Adliyah area came under bombardment.

Sporadic outbursts of machine gun fire were reported across Beirut combat lines from 0145 until 0430 this morning. Army positions in Suq al-Gharb and Dahr al-Wahsh were bombarded by the Syrians for 2 hours last night. Residential areas in Bsus, al-Kahhalah, 'Arayya, al-Jumhur, al-Yarzah, and Monte Verdi were hit in the course of the bombardment. Syrian artillery emplacements in the north also bombarded the Jubayl and Kasrawan coast.

Israeli Reconnaissance Plane Overflies Sidon

NC2806081689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] An Israeli reconnaissance plane flew over Sidon and the Palestinian camps as well as over Iqlim al-Kharrub this morning.

Meanwhile, intermittent clashes are currently raging along the Lib'a-Kafr Falus-'Ayn al-Mir combat lines. Various types of machine guns and rockets are being used in the fighting.

Afghanistan

Captured U.S. Photographer Presented to Media

BK2706132689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1240 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 27 (AFP)—American freelance photographer Tony O'Brien, captured by Afghan troops in the capital on June 8, was presented before the international press here Tuesday [27 June].

Mr. O'Brien, looking fit but thin, said he had been held in jail at an undisclosed location in Kabul since his arrest and had been undergoing lengthy interrogations daily.

He said he had agreed voluntarily to give a press conference and that no force had been used on him.

He also described his treatment in prison as "very good" and said he wanted to apologize to the Afghan Government for entering the country illegally with the mujahidin rebels.

Scores of journalists enter Afghanistan from Pakistan with mujahidin rebels. In the past three years, an Italian and a French journalist have been charged both with border violations and espionage.

Mr. O'Brien, 43, of New Mexico, said he believed that he would have to stand trial on charges of entering the country without a visa.

Further on News Conference

BK2706161989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1528 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 27 (AFP)—Tony O'Brien, a U.S. freelance photographer captured by Afghan troops, was presented to the press here Tuesday [27 June], looking thin but fit and saying he did not know if he would have to face trial on espionage charges.

Mr. O'Brien, 43, dressed in blue pajamas and tennis shoes, answered questions for an hour from foreign and local reporters at the Journalists' Union building before being led away by guards.

He said that he had been treated "extremely well" by his captors since his June 8 capture and was giving the press conference—his first contact since with the outside world—entirely voluntarily and that no force had been used.

He smiled at colleagues and thanked the government for his treatment and for the opportunity to speak to the press, which he said he had taken largely so that he could reassure his 75-year-old mother that he was alright.

He said he wanted to apologize to the Afghan Government for entering the country illegally with the mujahidin rebels.

Mr. O'Brien said he was on assignment for TIME-LIFE when security forces in Kabul burst into the house where he was, handcuffed him and put a blanket over his head.

He said he was led to a jail in Kabul and that he underwent daily interrogations.

He was denied access to a radio or television, or writing materials, and spent much of his time between long interrogation sessions playing checkers with two cellmates, he said.

He added that he had become quite expert at making Muslim prayer beads out of water, dough and grease from his food.

Mr. O'Brien stressed that his captors had treated him with "respect" at all times, and he said he understood that he was to stand trial to for entering the country illegally without a visa.

But he also said there had been talk of his taking photographs of buildings "that it is illegal to photograph."

"I am not a military photographer," he replied to an Afghan military journalist's question.

He also said he had twice applied to come to Kabul, but that both times his visa application had been rejected.

The Foreign Office spokesman, Muhammad Nabi Amani, told reporters his office had no record of Mr. O'Brien's applications and that some 1,200 journalists from "all countries" entered Afghanistan on government visas in the past year.

Mr. O'Brien said he told his captors, who were "very professional" interrogators, that he believed the Afghan war should be covered from both sides, and he said he was in Kabul to cover the city "from the other side."

A journalist could not cover both sides "simultaneously," he said.

Mr. O'Brien said that when the security forces had burst into the house where he was staying, he at first thought they were "friends" and stood up to say the Muslim greeting "Asalam-o-alaikum."

"But when I looked into their eyes, I realized they weren't 'Asalam-o-alaikum' kind of guys," he said ruefully.

He also said he had been told that it would "behoove me to cooperate" with the authorities, hastening to add his surprise at how well he had been treated.

A French and an Italian journalist—captured during the last three years with the mujahidin forces, who are fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul—were both given lengthy jail sentences for espionage, and released only after high-level intervention by their governments.

But Mr. O'Brien's case is seen among diplomats here as a test case, as there are hopes that a more lenient government policy towards the press might leave him charged only with a visa violation.

Some journalists took the fact that he was presented in the Journalists' Union building—not in the Foreign Ministry, where alleged spies have been displayed—as a sign the government may believe he is a bona fide journalist.

A U.S. consular official was scheduled to arrive in Kabul this week to take up Mr. O'Brien's case, Afghan Government officials have said.

Radio on News Conference

LD2706180989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] A press conference on the (?illegal entry) of U.S. citizen [Tony] O'Brien was held in Kabul with the participation of domestic and foreign journalists. [passage indistinct]

BAKHTAR reports that journalists asked questions about the circumstances of O'Brien's arrest and his treatment by the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA]. O'Brien answered the journalists' questions.

During his talk, O'Brien said that so far he has illegally entered the territory of Afghanistan six times accompanied by opposition extremists. His visits, with the aim of preparing reports, were organized by the political offices of the seven-party alliance and the Pakistan-based opposition. He was arrested on 18 Jowza [8 June] by the security forces of [word indistinct] while in possession of illegal documents and now he is under investigation.

O'Brien, the U.S. citizen who had been arrested on charges of illegal entry into the RA, today met with the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan]. O'Brien told the mission about his entry into the territory of the RA, his arrest by the country's security forces, and another information relating to the investigation.

Mujahidin 'Prime Minister' on Military Situation

PM2306081689 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 23 Jun 89 p 40

[Unattributed interview with Ghulam 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, "mujahidin prime minister;" place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] Have you finished moving your government into the liberated territory?

[Sayyaf] Yes. We have begun operating most ministries from inside Afghanistan. At its recent meeting, the council of ministers decided not to move the ministries into a single area but, rather, to distribute them among the various liberated areas and cities. Of course this is only temporary pending the government's establishment in the capital, Kabul, after the Najibullah regime's collapse. The foreign, health, education, and defense ministries have actually moved their offices. And the other ministries are organizing their offices in their chosen areas. We are not a government in exile, which is why we were quick to move into the liberated areas. This is, God willing, pending our imminent move into our capital, Kabul, to establish Islamic rule there.

[AL-HAWADITH] What are the government's priorities in the next stage?

[Sayyaf] The strategic objective of this government and the Afghan jihad movement is to topple the communist government and to establish the Islamic rule which the Afghan people have accepted as the supreme system of government. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Does the government feel secure under the bombardment of your positions by hostile aircraft?

[Sayyaf] More than 95 percent of Afghan areas have been liberated and are under mujahidin control. Nothing is left in the Najibullah government's hands except some towns and directorates which we cannot attack because our kinfolk live there. This is why we have decided to besiege them until a suitable military opportunity arises in order to storm them without a major loss of life. As for aerial bombardments and other problems, we have become accustomed to it and it will not obstruct our work inside Afghanistan or prevent us from settling there. It is our country and we must settle there.

[AL-HAWADITH] There have been reports of contacts with the Najibullah government via a third party with a view to announcing a truce and negotiations with them. Is this true?

[Sayyaf] No. That is absolutely untrue. Najibullah is offering everywhere a truce and negotiations because he knows that the end of his regime is approaching, especially following the stepping up of the mujahidin siege on his regime, which has committed many sins and crimes, stained its hands with the martyrs' blood, and relied on communist forces which wanted to destroy the freedom and will of this noble people. But Najibullah and his regime will withdraw from our country just as the Russians did.

[AL-HAWADITH] Why has the capture of Jalalabad taken so long?

[Sayyaf] Over the past 2 months the mujahidin have achieved what could not be achieved before: They have managed to capture the 11th Division with all its equipment and ammunition, and they are now besieging the 18th Division, which they will capture, God willing. The mujahidin have seized large quantities of various shells and ammunition and used them all against the enemy. They have occupied the largest military position near the city (Tamr Khayl) and are now tightening their siege on the city, where our kinfolk live. And that is why we, unlike the communist forces, cannot use haphazard shelling. Our advance toward the city is planned and calculated.

With regard to the other fronts, the mujahidin forces have advanced to occupy important positions on the Khowst road. Recently the mujahidin directed their strikes at the city itself. And in Qandahar, the mujahidin have imposed a complete siege on the city, which will fall to the mujahidin soon. And as you know, Kabul is under siege and constant shelling. But we have not yet begun the implementation of the principal plan. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] A committee convened to draw up the new state constitution and form a new shura council: What happened?

[Sayyaf] A committee has been formed to work on defining the powers of all state and government authorities, to draw up the permanent constitution of the state, and to organize the next shura elections which, according to the shura council decision, are scheduled to be held 6 months after the formation of the interim government. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Some claim that India is trying to replace the Russian in providing military and human support for the Kabul regime. What is the scale of this aid?

[Sayyaf] The Indian Government is working to prevent the establishment of Islamic Afghan rule, and it is completely sympathetic toward the agent Kabul government. But just as we forced the Russians to withdraw, we will force any other army of mercenaries to withdraw from our country. Our battle is with the Najibullah regime, not with India or others. [passage omitted]

Rebels To Issue ID Cards in 'Liberated Areas'

BK2806043589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 jun 89

[Text] The interior minister of the Afghan interim government, Yunis Khalis, has said that identification cards will be issued in the liberated areas soon. In an interview to the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, he said a security force will be set up to maintain peace in the liberated areas.

According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin in various operations have inflicted a heavy loss of life and property on Kabul regime troops. They attacked and occupied a government station comprising 10 security posts at Kohsan in Herat Province and captured a large quantity of arms. The reports say the mujahidin also occupied 11 posts of the Kabul regime in the Masa'i sector.

Another report says that due to the mujahidin's military operations at Shakar Darreh and Charikar north of Kabul, many convoys of the Kabul regimes were forced to retreat.

According to a report, 300 soldiers of a militia along with their commander surrendered to the mujahidin in Badghis Province. The reports say the mujahidin have tightened the siege of the provincial capital.

Mujahidin Intensify Pressure on Kabul

BK2706153489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] According to reports, the Afghan mujahidin have intensified their pressure on Kabul. They achieved success on the highway leading to the Soviet border, thereby completely disrupting the movement of supplies for the city.

According to a report, the mujahidin in an operation near Jabal os Saraj on Salang Highway destroyed two vehicles carrying rations and two tanks. The mujahidin also attacked the airport and some garrisons in Qandahar and destroyed two ammurition depots and two vehicles. The mujahidin destroyed a security post of the Kabul regime at (Goshan) region of Herat Province and seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Supplies Disrupted

BK2706132089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Islamabad, June 27 (AFP)—Military pressure by the mujahidin resistance north of Kabul has disrupted the supply of Soviet arms to Afghan Government troops, Western sources and those close to the resistance said Tuesday [27 June].

Mujahidin forces have taken several positions along a 20-kilometer (12-mile) portion of the Salang highway, a strategic road linking Kabul with the southern Soviet city of Termez, the sources said.

Government forces have been forced to use another road to the east which has also begun to come under repeated attack, they said.

In their long-running offensive to take the strategic eastern city of Jalalabad, the country's third-largest, the mujahidin were still having difficulties because of their inexperience in conventional warfare, the sources said.

Western sources said the Jalalabad-Kabul highway remained open, allowing supplies to reach government troops in the key garrison city and making it difficult for the mujahidin to make any headway in their four-month long effort to take the city.

Kabul's defense this summer will depend in large part on the ability of government forces to receive military hardware from the Soviets, in particular armored vehicles from the Hairatan area on the Soviet border, Western specialists said.

On Tuesday the mujahidin said the Salang highway was still open though their military operations in Shakar Darreh and Charikar had forced a number of government convoys to turn back.

The two areas are respectively 20 kilometers (12 miles) and 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Kabul.

A portion of the Soviet arms, including surface-to-surface Scud missiles, had been delivered to Kabul by air, the experts said.

At the same time, Western sources here said the mujahidin had launched more frequent rocket attacks against the Afghan capital and its airport.

Government troops inside the city have consolidated their defenses and are digging trenches, they said.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, a group of Shi'ite Muslims associated with the pro-Iranian "Harakat-e Eslami" seized an important government station made up of 10 security posts at (Khosan) on June 23 in the northwestern province of Herat, the sources said.

The mujahidin recovered a large quantity of arms, including armored vehicles, artillery and several hundred AK-47s, they added.

In Lowgar Province south of Kabul, the resistance said it had captured 11 government posts in the Masa'i Military Sector.

In Afghanistan's second largest city Qandahar, sources said, there are competing views among the mujahidin on whether to attempt a total blockade of the city.

Resistance attacks on the airport have mounted in the past week, leading to an increase in the number of wounded evacuated to Quetta, the Pakistani city on the Afghan border.

Rebels Shell Kabul 27 Jun

LD2706174389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Pakistani-backed extremist criminals today committed another unforgiveable and shocking crime against our Muslim and faithful compatriots in Kabul city. The military section of BAKHTAR reports that extremists who are opposed to the peace and tranquility of our compatriots fired eight surface-to-surface missiles at residential areas in Kabul City today. Four of our coompatriots including women and children were martyred and seven were injured. The victims of the incidents were transferred to hospital and are undergoing treatment.

BAKHTAR Roundup 28 Jun

LD2806084389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] Kabul, June 27, BAKHTAR—Quoting authoritative sources of the Armed Forces, BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reports that three civilians and one serviceman of the Armed Forces were killed and five persons injured when the extremist groups, supported by Pakistan, fired long-range heavy weapons on the residential areas in Jalalabad city.

Reports add that in a retaliatory operation carried out by the units of Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province, 64 extremists including 12 Pakistani militarymen and seven Saudi Wahabis were killed and 79 injured.

Similarly, 16 extremists were crushed and 10 captured in a mopping up operation in Badakhshan Province. Four armed men have surrendered themselves to the security authorities in Parvan Province. A large quantity of the foes' arms were also either captured or destroyed.

The extremists, supported by Pakistan, committed another horrible crime against the Muslim people of Kabul City. They fired eight surface-to-surface rockets on the residential areas of Kabul city as a result of which four of our countrymen including children and women were killed and seven injured.

The injured persons are under treatment in the hospital.

Ninety-six extremists were killed and 130 others seriously injured as a result of severe armed clashes occurred among the Gulbuddin, Rabbani, Gaylani and Sayyaf groups in Parvan, Takhar, Faryab, Nangarhar, Herat and Balkh Provinces recently.

The clashes, which have caused remarkable human and material losses to the hostile sides, are going on.

A 26-member armed rebel group went over to the government side in Ghowr Province today upon realising that a continuation of the armed fight is useless.

Likewise, another 224-member unarmed rebel group also joined with the national reconciliation policy in the same province today.

Similarly, residents of Jamrode [name as received] in their Jerga held recently in the Daira Malik Wazir [name as received] severely condemned interventions of the

Pakistani militarist in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA]. The participants demanded Pakistani Government to immediately stop interferences in the RA's internal affairs.

Worth mentioning is that over 300 youths belonging to the 7th precinct of Kabul municipality have voluntarily joined the ranks of the Armed Forces. Also, totally about 100 [number as received] youths have joined voluntarily to the ranks of the government Armed Forces during the past three months.

Further on Operations

BK2806090489 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin inflicted heavy losses on the Kabul regime forces during operations on Salang Highway, besides capturing a military base. Another report says that Kabul regime's fighter planes bombed the rural localities near (?Bashleng) City. As a result, a mujahidin commander, Yar Khan, was martyred and 14 mujahidin were injured. Prior to the bombing, the mujahidin had blasted the ammunition depot of (?Bashleng) cantonment.

In Paktia, the mujahidin shot down a transport plane while landing at Khowst airport. The pilot and the crew of the plane were killed.

Bangladesh

Dhaka 'Almost Paralyzed' by Anti-Tax Strike

BK2806064489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0614 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] Dhaka, June 28 (AFP)—Dhaka was almost paralyzed Wednesday [28 June] in response to a half-day strike call by the opposition Awami League to protest government's new tax proposals under the budget, witnesses and police said.

Police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) border guards were patrolling major thoroughfares, witnesses said, adding that banks, business houses and shopping centres were shut during the dawn-to-noon stoppage.

Government offices remained open but attendance was down to begin with, witnesses said. Most of the capital's schools and colleges remained shut.

Except for small demonstrations by party activists and street urchins brandishing rods and bamboo sticks, the city was calm and no major violence was reported immediately, a police official on duty in downtown Moitijheel said.

Except for a few tricycle rickshaws, all transport including government buses stayed off the streets, while hundreds of commuters were either forced to walk to work or hitch a ride on rickshaws, which have been kept outside the strike.

The Awami League-dominated eight-party alliance backed the eighth-hour strike to protest against the national budget announced this month in parliament and proposing some 104 million dollars in additional taxes.

The strikers opposed the tax increases and termed the new budget for fiscal 1989-90 as "anti-people."

Party sources here said the strike was also aimed at reviving a dormant campaign to force President Hussain Mohammad Ershad to step down.

The strike was also enforced in other Bangladesh cities including the major port of Chittagong in the southeast and the industrial centre of Khulna in the southwest, reports reaching here said Wednesday without immediate details.

The strike would be followed by a rally here to be addressed by League chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed, party sources said.

Meanwhile, an official announcement carried by the BSS [BANGLADESH SANGBAD SANGSTHA] news agency late Tuesday said the government has postponed several college final examinations scheduled for Wednesday for "unavoidable reasons."

India

Article Analyzes Aspects of Sino-Soviet Thaw

BK2706134089 Delhi PATRIOT in English 30 May 89 p 4

[Article by M.S.N. Menon: "India and Sino-Soviet Thaw: Economic Perspective"]

[Text] The thaw in Sino-Soviet relations can create opportunities for India. While their political understanding may ensure peaceful atmospherics in this part of the world, their economic cooperation can widen the scope for India—if all the three can work in real partnership. It is, therefore, imperative for us to know the emerging perspectives.

China is a major economic power and potentially an economic giant. its present GNP [gross national product] is four times that of South Korea and exports, four times that of India.

Foreign money has been pouring into China for the past 10 years. China has developed some of the most successful free trade zones in the world. It is also investing

abroad—about 500 million dollars in 300 projects. These help China to secure valuable raw materials, promote trade and attract capital and technology.

China's exports rose steeply by 25 percent to reach 40 billion dollars in 1987. (Our export is set at Rs [rupees] 20,000 crore). It made major gains in the export of textiles and garments, 40 percent of which went to the US market, which gives China most favoured nation treatment. With a rapid growth of light and medium industries, China is emerging as a major producer of consumer goods including durables.

The export of US technology to China is booming. In 1988, the US trade authorities received 6900 applications for export of equipment of high technology valued at 3600 million dollars to China. Of these, 6200, valued at 3000 million dollars, were cleared. These serve China's economic modernisation.

Thus, cooperation between China and the USSR has to be viewed from a different perspective today. Both are developed and have complementary economies. However, the Soviet Union is more advanced in technology and has more resources. China needs both, while it can supply vast quantities of perishables and other consumer products to the USSR.

After years of disruption, the Sino-Soviet economic cooperation was resumed in the early eighties. Between 1981 and 1985, their mutual trade grew by eight times. Machinese and transport items in Soviet exports had a share of 35 percent.

On its part, China exported to the USSR storage batteries, tungsten, fluorspar, talc, colophony, soyabeans, maize, peanuts, meat and meat products, fresh fruits, tea, cotton fibre, raw silk, textiles, readymade garments, furs, footwear and other goods. Imports from China continue to be dominated by food products and agricultural items (50.6 percent in 1988), manufactured consumer goods having a share of 30.8 percent.

The cross-border trade between the USSR and China is reported to be growing by leaps. With a common border of 7,000 km, China has infinite advantages over India in this area.

The Soviet-Chinese trade in 1990 is expected to be about three billion rubles (over 4,800 million dollars). Though these are insignificant in terms of the total trade turnover of both countries (the Soviet share of Chinese market is less than three percent, while China's share of Soviet market is 1.1 percent), it is expected to grow to 12 billion rubles in the Nineties. As against this, the Indo-Soviet trade target is set at Rs 10,000 crore by 1992.

The Soviet Union has put up about 250 projects in China before the Sino-Soviet rupture. Most of these may have to be modernised. Under the recent economic agreement, the USSR is to assist China in modernising 17 projects in the basic industries and construct seven new ones.

The Soviet and Chinese trade specialists do not see prospects of a quantum jump in trade. There are problems: pricing, delivery, range and quality of products. The most intractable, of course, is transport. However, with new forms of cooperation like joint ventures and production cooperation, the prospects can change.

It is in the Soviet Far East and Siberia that the two can maximise their cooperation. They hope to combine Chinese manpower and Soviet resources and technology in order to produce an upsurge in production. With the Soviet land-lease system, Chinese, North Korean and Vietnamese farmers are already engaged in extensive farming in the Far East. They have a ready market in the USSR.

The Soviet Union is interested in China's experience in setting up free trade zones. Moscow has invited the Chinese to set up joint ventures in Vladivostok to produce building materials, radio and electronic equipment, household appliances, clothes, footwear, foodstuffs and others. The Soviet Union has also invited Indian business to the Far East. But, the Chinese have geographical advantage over India in this region. India will do better in Central Asia and European USSR.

A great deal is expected of the new rail line being built by the USSR (Moscow-Alma-Ata-Urumchi), which will link Europe with the Pacific. China plans to export its goods to Europe by this rail once it is completed. China also expects a spurt in overland European tourism.

A comprehensive agreement on cooperation is science and technology betwen the USSR and China was signed in 1984 covering 12 areas. These are traditional areas in which the USSR has some superiority.

India must realise that it has now to deal directly with Soviet organisations, which will judge their deals, including credits, strictly in economic terms. And every Soviet republic and region has been given autonomy to deal directly with foreign parties. While China's main interest at present is to develop border trade and economic relations with the Soviet Far East, India is yet to make up its mind how to cope with the new situation.

True, Indo-Soviet cooperation for the rest of the century is already in the pipeline and the USSR and China will need some years to create the necessary infrastructure to improve their cooperation. But India will do well to assess its options without delay.

The visit of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to China last December has opened up possibilities for improved trade and economic relations with China. The Sino-Soviet thaw can not only expand the scope for these but also encourage the growth of a triangular relationship.

Commentary on U.S. Nuclear Policy Contradictions

BK2606123189 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Ragha Mohan commentary: "U.S. and Nuclear Program in Pakistan"]

[Text] The world can only take a dim view of the verbal exercises of the Bush administration on the issue of Pakistan's nuclear weapon program. The recent visit of Pakistan's prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, to Washington has once again brought into focus the many contradictions in the U.S. nuclear policy. The central contradiction is in the very U.S. approach to nuclear weapons. The United States insists, as it did most recently at the NATO summit in Brussels, that Western security must, for the foreseeable future, be based on nuclear weapons.

Washington dismisses India's call for the total elimination of nuclear weapons as unrealistic—the dreams of a denuclearized Europe. At the same time, Washington tells the developing world how dangerous nuclear weapons are and declares its firm commitment to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. This hypocritical policy, however, is not being pursued with any consistency. Washington's nonproliferation policy is very selective. It hardly discusses the nuclear weapons programs of Israel and South Africa—Washington's allies in two critical regions.

In relation to Pakistan's nuclear weapons program, the occasional concern expressed in Washington does not obscure the fact that the United States has turned a blind eye to the nuclear ambitions of Pakistan. This has been the U.S. approach to nuclear proliferation in South Asia. It was the United States, almost exactly a decade ago in May 1979, that drew the international attention to Pakistan's nuclear weapon capabilities by invoking the Symington Amendment to the U.S. Foreign Assistance Act. The amendment called for the suspension of the U.S. aid to those countries known to be pursuing a nuclear weapons program. Later, with the arrival of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan and the U.S. decision to revive the strategic consensus with Pakistan, Washington beat a hasty retreat. It decided to sacrifice its goal on nonproliferation in pursuit of a larger strategic objective vis-a-vis the Soviet Union.

Throughout the eighties, the evidence of Pakistan's drive to acquire nuclear weapons began to mount. Western sources pieced together the massive operation of Islamabad to acquire nuclear material and technology in West Europe and North America. The U.S. courts convicted individuals who had attempted to smuggle nuclear material into Pakistan. In spite of the irrefutable evidence, the United States had claimed that its military and economic assistance to Pakistan would reduce the pressure on Pakistan to go nuclear. Not only this, it had also stated that the former Pakistan president, General Ziaul Haq, had assured the United States that Pakistan would not enrich uranium beyond 5 percent. The said assurance was significant in the view of the fact that uranium needs to be enriched beyond 90 percent for use in nuclear weapons.

Since 1985, the United States, in compliance with a new legislation, began to issue an annual certification that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear weapon. This posture could not be sustained as the Central Intelligence Agency—again a U.S. agency—leaked its assessment that Pakistan had enriched uranium beyond the 90 percent mark and it was only a screwdriver turn away from the bomb. If there are any doubts in people's mind, General Zia himself confirmed Pakistan's nuclear weapon capability in an interview to the TIME magazine in March 1987.

The election of Ms Benazir Bhutto as prime minister of Pakistan and the coming of a new administration in Washington have in no way altered the reality of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program or the depth of the strategic consensus between Washington and Islamabad. The Bush administration has only confirmed the American inability and unwillingness to check Pakistan's nuclear weapon program. By dropping the earlier demand that Pakistan should not enrich uranium beyond 5 percent, the American officials have welcomed Ms Bhutto's assurances on the peaceful nuclear intentions of Pakistan. But it is not entirely clear whether they accept these assurances. In any case, given the widespread consensus in Pakistan behind the nuclear program, it is unlikely that any government in Pakistan would really bend on the nuclear issue. While the U.S. would continue to monitor the Pakistan nuclear program, it is in no position to hold Pakistan into public assurances.

The current contortions in Washington are only a part of the effort to make the U.S. Congress learn to live with nuclear Pakistan. The U.S. fudging on Pakistan nuclear weapons is quite understandable. What is entirely not understandable is the U.S. effort to equate India and Pakistan on the nuclear issue—to impose a discriminatory nonproliferation regime on India and to constrain indigenous technology development in India.

Gandhi Rules Out Compromise With 'Terrorists'

BK2706031289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] The prime minister has strongly condemned terrorist violence and called on the people to maintain peace and communal harmony. Expressing his deep shock and grief at the brutal and dastardly killings of

innocent men, women, and children, at Moga on Sunday [24 June], Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the aim of the terrorists is to create a communal divide. In a condolence message to the bereaved families, he said despite the efforts of the terrorists, the people of Punjab in the past maintained communal harmony. He expressed confidence that they will once again stand together to frustrate the aim of terrorists.

The prime minister asserted that there can be no compromise in the battle against terrorism. He said in the recent past, the terrorists have been isolated from the people and their nexus with places of religious worship broken. The prime minister said he had instructed the law and order agencies to spare no efforts to apprehend the culprits.

Meanwhile, the security forces in Punjab continue to be on the maximum alert and raids are being conducted at the suspected hideouts of terrorists all over the state. According to an official spokesman, vigilance on the international border has also been intensified to prevent the escape of terrorists abroad. The security forces have also been asked to maintain a close liaison with the general public, both for redressal of their grievances and collection of information about terrorists.

West's Stand on India's Technology Gains Viewed

BK2706115789 Delhi PATRIOT in English
24 May 89 p 4

[Editorial: "After 'Agni'"]

[Text] The successful test-launch of Agni [India's surface-to-surface missile] as the Prime Minister put it, "provides us with a viable non-nuclear option of the greatest relevance to the contemporary strategic doctrines". Simply put, Agni fills a vital gap in the country's strategic requirements and demonstrates India has come of age in indigenous technological development. In terms of technological implications, Agni is in the same genre as the 1974 Pokhran nuclear implosion was. Predictably, like the 1974 underground test, the Agni launch has invited a lot of flak from the West, chiefly the U.S. The American and Pakistani reactions have been sharp. Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has described Agni as a threat not only to regional stability but also to international peace. The U.S. for several weeks now has been at pains to somehow thwart the Agni launch. From expressions of "deep concern" to dark hints about damage to India's developing relations with China and Pakistan to outright threats to Indo-U.S. ties—the U.S. has tried every tactic to dissuade India from developing indigenous missile technology. No such "deep concern" was forthcoming from Washington when Pakistan, and earlier Israel, test-fired their missiles or when China sold its 'East Wind' and 'Silkworms' to Saudi Arabia. The patently anti-Indian colouring of U.S. concerns over missiles proliferation becomes apparent from the U.S. Congress' decision to consider stoppage of technology transfer and trade barriers against developing countries that have or are about to have ballistic missiles. The moves as a U.S. military analyst affirmed, are "clearly to make an example of India." These moves may be followed by a U.S. attempt to set up a cartel of the leading industrialised nations to enforce an embargo on supplies to India. After the Pokhran test, under the U.S.-British initiative the notorious London Club was set up to deny equipment which can be used in nuclear technology. The discriminatory NPT [Non-Proliferation Treaty] regime has been consistently opposed by India. That is why India is "a thorn in the side of the West". India's missile programme, aside from strengthening India's security, places India in a position to persuade others to negotiate a nuclear-disarmament treaty. Meanwhile, India must continue with its national endeavour for technological self-reliance.

Editorial on State of Emergency in Sri Lanka

BK2706081989 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
22 Jun 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Sri Lanka's Agony"]

[Text] The reimposition of emergency in Sri Lanka is another grim reminder of the fragile foundation of the island republic's polity. Since President Premadasa lifted the five-year-old emergency when he took over in January, the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] terrorists have brought the country to the brink of total anarchy of the kind witnessed at the height of the 1971 insurrection. To mention only one alarming indicator, over 1,700 people have been done to death in political violence against key figures in the ruling United National Party and government officials. By now giving extraordinary powers to the security agencies to arrest the chaos, Mr Premadasa has acknowledged the futility of his vaunted policy of conciliation of the JVP. Neither the release of 1,800 political prisoners nor Mr Premadasa's "Jansaviya" programme of generous doles to poor families helped wean the JVP away from murderous rampage. Obviously, the week-old transport strike which crippled the economy was the last straw.

The other aspect of the problem of restoring a semblance of governmental authority in Sri Lanka relates to the ethnic strife. Mr Premadasa's new deal to the JVP included a sharp anti-Indian stance. His opposition to the Peace Accord signed by his predecessor, Mr Jayewardene, and Mr Rajiv Gandhi and, in particular, the involvement of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] in the predominantly Tamil provinces in the north and east, was well known. Even so, his resort to diplomatic adventurism—reflected in his dramatic demand for the withdrawal of the IPKF by July 29 and reported move to take up the issue in the UN and the International Court—could only be seen as a desperate bid to appease the JVP. This, too, did not work. Mr Premadasa might well have been dismayed more by the JVP's intransigence on this count than by its refusal to bite the other political and economic baits.

If the JVP has disappointed him, are the Tamil Liberation Tigers likely to change their stripes to oblige him? It is on this issue that Mr Premadasa now needs to reflect. His switch-over to friendly parleys with a group sworn to dismemberment of Sri Lanka could only be attributed to a shared hositility to the IPKF. It is hard to see how possibly a beleaguered government can gain from such a tactical ploy. If his overriding objective is to strengthen every trend against ethnic separatism, it is difficult to think of a more credible way of going about it than the strict implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Peace Pact.

Indeed, much of the central purpose of the pact has already been served. Mr Premadasa's keenness to see the Indian troops return home as early as possible is understandable. And New Delhi will do well to appreciate this sentiment and hasten the troop pull-out without making a fetish of the commitment to provide full security to the Sri Lankan Tamils. As of now, it is Mr Premadasa who has to take the crucial decision against putting the clock back and in favour of going ahead with the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord.

Ministry Spokesman on Sri Lanka, SAARC

BK2706153289 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1503 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] In reply to a question about Sri Lanka not proposing to attend SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meeting in Islamabad, the spokesman said that we have seen some reports to the effect that this particular country has sought to raise bilateral matters in a SAARC forum. We understand that they have also written to Pakistan, the current chairman of SAARC, in this connection. This attempt to introduce bilateral issues in SAARC fora is against the letter and spirit of the Charter of SAARC, specifically Article X which reads as follows:

"General Provisions:

(1) Decisions at all levels shall be taken on the basis of unanimity.

(2) Bilateral and contentious issues shall be excluded from the deliberations."

This is the third time that this particular country has attempted to raise bilateral issues on the eve of a SAARC meeting. We refuse to accept such blatant violation of the SAARC Charter.

In reply to another question as to which were the other two occasions when they raised bilateral issues in a SAARC Forum, the spokesman said that in May 1985, in Thimpu, a similar threat was held out because of a statement by the then MOS(EA) [Minister of State (External Affairs)] made on the treatment of Tamils in Sri Lanka and later in June 1987, at the Delhi SAARC Foreign Ministers meeting after the dropping of relief supplies in Jaffna.

In reply to another question about the allegations levelled by Sri Lanka against India in the communications to the SAARC chairman, the spokesman said that he had no comments on these allegations. The allegations are inadmissible on the basis of the Charter of the SAARC and are outside the scope of the Charter. Attempts to introduce bilateral issues in aa SAARC forum are inadmissible on the basis of the charter.

In reply to a question about a story in THE TELEGRAPH of 25th June, entitled: "JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] Planning Siege of Indian Embassy: Commandos Kept Ready To Rescue Diplomats, Families in Colombo" the spokesman said that he had seen the press report and would like to draw attention to the spokesman's statement of 12th June where he had said that the responsibility for providing adequate security to foreign nations and to foreign diplomatic missions was that of the host country. This particular report appears to be 'fanciful.'

India Deplores Sri Lankan Stand

BK2706151489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] India today deplored attempts by Sri Lanka to disrupt the function of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] by introducing bilateral issues into the forum. This was stated by an official spokesman in New Delhi today when he was asked for comments on Sri Lanka's decision to boycott the SAARC foreign ministers meeting in Islamabad over the withdrawal of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] issue. He said India attaches considerable importance to the concept of SAARC and welcomes the progress the organization has made in recent years in improving people-to-people contact in the South Asian region. A number of senior officials have already reached Islamabad and are working with their colleagues from other SAARC countries. The Indian foreign secretary is also joining them.

Meanwhile, the foreign secretaries from other countries have started arriving in Islamabad for the standing committee meeting beginning tomorrow.

Our correspondent reports that the meeting of the programming committee of senior officials of SAARC countries could not begin even today. The SAARC has India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bhutan, the Maldives, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka as its members.

In Sri Lanka, several opposition parties have cautioned the government against any such action which might lead to the division of the island on ethnic lines. In a statement in Colombo, the parties have requested President Premadasa to take a cautious step on the PKF withdrawal. The opposition parties include Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, and the Ceylon Workers Congress. They also cautioned the government against any period of vacuum between the PKF withdrawal and making alternative security arrangements.

The parties appealed to the Sri Lanka Government to sort out the issue bilaterally through friendly negotiations.

Iran

Deputies Ask Ahmad Khomeyni To Join Majlis

LD2706123989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] During today's [27 June] open session of the Islamic Majlis a letter written by 205 deputies of the Majlis and addressed to Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni was read aloud. The letter referred to the immense status gained by Islam and its global leadership under the remarkable and unique personality of his holiness imam, may God be satisfied with his deeds. It reads: The resourcefulness of this leadership in managing the current affairs is one of the most valuable and significant factors, which has been truly praised and appreciated by our grateful nation and will continue to receive their appreciation. This in itself was the secret behind the fondness and love of the kind father of the Islamic revolution for Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni as the representative, the trustee of his holiness imam, and his observer in all matters and essential decisionmaking acts of the state. For this reason, we call upon Your Excellency to join the Islamic Majlis—which always received the particular attention of our great imam and is an organ on the top of all affairs—to become a source of strength, encouragement, and guidance of this important pillar of legislation in the arena of the country's decisions.

Khomeyni's Son Predicted as Speaker

LD2806062589 Tehran IRNA in English 0602 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 28, IRNA—A daily paper Wednesday said the late Imam Khomeyni's son could become Majlis speaker to fill in for Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

"With his (Ahmad Khomeyni's) participation in midterm Majlis elections, we can possibly predict from now that Ahmad Khomeyni will assume leadership of the Majlis in the not-too-distant future," said the TEHRAN TIMES.

A Majlis seat from Tehran would be vacant with Rafsanjani's resignation which is necessary for candidates in the July 28 presidential election.

The English-language daily said with Rafsanjani's election as president, a vacuum will be created in the legislative branch and its power will be lessened.

Some 210 Majlis deputies asked Khomeyni to join the Majlis on Tuesday. The deputies believed his presence would guarantee the continuation of the late imam's path.

The daily said the courageous reaction shown by Khomeyni after the election of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i as the leader of the country proved his "sharp political wit" and power of "realistic decision-making, minus colorful and empty sloganeering."

He also has had ten years of experience as an aide to the imam, an experience that "cannot be overlooked."

Ahmad Khomeyni Receives Iraqi Mourners 27 Jun

LD2706211289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] A group of Iraqi refugees and strugglers, and members of the Islamic Da'wah Party of Iraq, together with a group of combatant Iraqi clergy, today attended Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran, where they staged their traditional mourning ceremonies to express their sorrow at the the heart-rending passing away of the great leader of the Islamic revolution.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni attended the gathering of the mourners and thanked them for their sympathy. He emphasized the need for them to continue their struggle against oppression and tyranny. He said: The path of his holiness the imam—who was the leader of the world's Muslims—must be followed by you in your struggles. Never let fear overtake you; and by self-education and benefitting from his holiness the imam's guidelines, rid yourself from the grip of the exploiters and hireling rulers.

He then stressed that Islam recognizes no borders, and that directing to do what is good [amr-e be ma'ruf] is not bound within any particular boundary. He said: The Afghan Mujahidin, and the Palestinian and Lebanese strugglers, together with the oppressed people of the world, can stand up against oppression in unison, through obeying the imam's guidelines. With your voices you can make global arrogance tremble with fear, thereby forcing it to retreat.

Ahmad Khomeyni's Speech

LD2706124489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0932 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Speech by Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni during services for Ayatollah Khomeyni at Jamaran mosque; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We came from God and to Him will we return. [passage omitted]

You brothers and sisters were the soldiers of the imam. You supported the imam in all your slogans. In support of the imam you said: Death to America. You never forsook the imam. You gave the imam your strong support. I know exactly how you feel.

I believe that if we want to please the imam's spirit, we must carry out his testament. The most important issue to the imam was unity among the clergy, among the people, between the people and the officials, among the officials. Time and time again we heard such words from the imam.

We all know what the imam's doctrine was. The motto of all the world's free Muslims is the same: The imam was the founder of the neither-East-nor-West doctrine, and all the world's free-thinking people wholeheartedly support that motto.

Concerning the country's domestic affairs in addition to unity, the imam believed in supporting the deprived, the meek, and the oppressed, and in attacking a number of powerful capitalists who were not prepared to spent a penny on this revolution, on the war, on the oppressed and deprived, or on the country's reconstruction, while you, who are middle or lower-middle class, helped each other compensate for the hardships inevitable after every revolution and did you best to prevent others from suffering hardship. The imam recommended that the officials defend the deprived.

Regarding the fight against powers, as you know full well that the imam made up his mind and stood up to both the East and the West under the worst conditions. Thank God he succeeded, for today the whole region is on the side of the imam and his doctrines. Today, Muslims in Asia, America, and Europe are inspired by the imam's doctrines. The Salman Rushdie incident and the demonstrations in Britain cannot be overlooked. All the Western countries joined forces, made certain gestures, and tried to isolate us; they lost out. The imam said: They returned to our country with their heads bowed in shame. The Common Market did its best to bring defeat to Iran in the Salman Rushdie affair. You all know that it did not happen. Why? Because you were behind the imam. With his amazingly accurate vision, the imam guided you along a course that led only to prosperity.

Today, it we want to please the imam's soul, we should wholeheartedly demand that our responsible officials follow that same neither-East-nor-West policy. Thanks be to God that today your officials are determined not to abandon this policy, even for a moment. You realize that foreign propaganda, which intends to separate the people from their officials, is extensive. Foreign radio stations and counterrevolutionaries, both within the country and without, want to say that Khomeyni's ideology died with Khomeyni. However, with your support your officials will stand against the East and the West with all their might and will preserve the imam's line. [shouts of approval and of: God is greatest]

You should defend the present leaders of the system by every means. Your defense and support will given them the courage to speak their genuine and Islamic words without fear, even in the face of the enemy. Thanks be to God they have no fear. Today your officials have pledged to their God that they will not take the slightest step contrary to or, God forbid, outside the imam's line. If you were to become negligent and give up your steadfastness in the face of difficulties, you must know for certain that you will lose the gains of your sons who were martyred at the front and all your sons' future achievements.

It is no small privilege for you to be able to stand on your own two feet and say no to both the East and the West.

You stood up to the United States in such a way as to become a model so that the whole world could follow your path, inspired by you and by your imam. Your reputation in the world is such that wherever anyone wants to stand up to the United States, they remember you. You are Khomeyni's people, [crowd chants] and must follow his path.

Dear sisters, you are a great force that has brought this revolution to fruition. You have taken control of the whole world. The whole world has joined forces to break down the resistance of you lion-hearted women. You must not allow that. Your sons and brothers have been martyred. You must support this revolution. And that you do.

It is because we stood up to the United States with all our might that today your officials are able to say whatever they want to the East and the West without any hesitation. This is due to your firm resolve to attain your lofty Islamic goals. How could the officials say no to the United States were it not for you? How could they speak strong words to arrogance and not yield to the East or West? Were it not for you, how could your officials stand up to internal counterrevolutionaries, slap them in the face, and say: We will not deviate from the path of Islam? How could this revolution have triumphed without you?

Today, your course of action is a great model for all the oppressed in the world. It is not funny that arrogance is so frightened of your revolution that the United States has mobilized the entire world against the imam, his line, and your officials, and that all foreign loudspeakers falsely attribute everything to your imam and your officials in order to eradicate the imam's ideology.

I seriously affirm that the imam has called on you to stand up to the East and West forever. You must not think that the imam is no longer with us. Thank God your country's high-ranking officials follow the imam's line! The only difference between today's leader and our leader is the past lies in their ages. The aim of the Ayatollah Khamene'i is the same as that of the imam. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Recalls Beheshti's Death
LD2706142689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Excerpt] Our correspondent reports from today's open session of the Islamic Majlis and on the remarks made by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani:

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the 28 June tragedy of the [1981 bombing in which Beheshti and some 70 state officials were killed] as the most eloquent evidence of aggrieved stance of the Iranian nation and a cause of shame for arrogance and global blasphemy. During today's open session, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis, while paying tribute to the great martyrs of this tragedy referred to the fact that those responsible for this crime were trained by arrogance and now receive support from the West and are fed by propaganda of international Zionism, he said: We lost our best men in the 28 June tragedy at the hand of these criminals. Now the supporters of these terrorists are accusing us of terrorism! How can arrogance claim that it is fighting terrorism under these circumstances and in this situation?

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the fact that the people no longer believe the false propaganda, contradictions and incitements of these well-known enemies stressed: Although we paid a heavy price in the sacred blood of these martyrs, it had a very important effect on the continuation of the revolution and in keeping the people on the scene. The blood of these dear ones is not something that can be ignored or forgotten easily. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Khamene'i Receives Basij Forces
LD2706145489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Excerpts] A large group of basij [mobilization] forces from all over the country, comprising the basij forces of the clergy, the students, the sisters, pupils, tribesmen, guilds, workers, civil servants, commanders of the basij resistance bases, the Malek-e Ashtar commanders, and examples from the Qods reserve battalions, accompanied by basij officials, were received this morning by His Eminency Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI). [passage omitted]

During this audience, the Armed Forces commander in chief referred to the fact that it is a great honor to be a basiji [a member of the mobilization forces]. He graciously said. The basijis, wherever they work, should realize that they are part of the huge popular army of the revolution and that their priority is to serve the revolution. Since the basijis have made their chests a shield in the face of the threats against the revolution, they are the most valuable members of society.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, while stressing that the IRI is wholeheartedly in favor of peace throughout the region and the world, graciously said: We are not and were not warmongers, but we defend ourselves and our country courageously. We welcome any talks that might lead to peace, but so long as the enemy remains on our territory, we will not find the necessary trust. Basically, how can they claim to seek peace when they have kept their forces on our territory? Iraq must withdraw its forces from our territory.

The leader of the IRI graciously stressed the need for the basijis to maintain permanent readiness. He added: A nation that is not ready and receives a blow will not be praised or pitied by anyone. The basijis and particularly the youth of various strata, should continue their work powerfully, with joy and a feeling of necessity. The responsible basij officials, too, should attach importance to greater degree of training and organization.

Presidential Election, Referendum Set for 28 Jul
LD2706135889 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA—Presidential candidates will be registered by the Interior Ministry for five days starting Wednesday June 28.

The fifth presidential elections and a national referendum for constitutional amendments will be held concurrently on 28 July.

The elections were initially scheduled for 18 August, but due to the passing away of the leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomenyi (June 3), and election of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i as the new leader of the Islamic Republic it was set for July 28.

Ayatollah Khamene'i now doubles as leader and president of the Islamic Republic.

Constitution Reappraisal Council Passes Revisions
NC2806071289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] The 28th general session of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution met yesterday under the chairmanship of Ayatollah Meshkini and continued debate on the report submitted by commission No 2 on centralization in the executive branch.

Articles 135, 136, 137, 140, 141 and 142 were approved as follows:

Article 135: Ministers will remain in their posts as long as they are not dismissed or impeached and resignations by the council of ministers or by a minister will be submitted to the president. The council of ministers shall continue to perform its duties until a new government is formed. The president can appoint a head for any ministry which does not have a minister for a maximum period of 3 months.

Article 136: The president can dismiss a minister and should, in such cases, secure a vote of confidence from the Majlis for a new minister or ministers. In cases when half the cabinet is replaced after the Majlis has given it a vote of confidence, a request must be made to the Islamic Majlis for a new vote of confidence in the new cabinet.

Article 137: Each minister shall be responsible to the president and the Majlis for his specific functions. However, he will be responsible for the actions of others as well in matters approved by the council of ministers.

Article 140: Charges brought against the president and his deputies and ministers involving ordinary offenses shall be dealt with by an ordinary court of justice with prior knowledge of the Islamic Majlis.

In Article 141, the term prime minister has been deleted at the beginning and the term the president's deputies substituted.

At the end of the article, the sentence "the prime minister shall, if deemed necessary, take provisional charge of certain ministries" has been deleted.

In Article 142, the term prime minister has been deleted and the phrase the president's deputies inserted.

In view of the fact that the deadline set for the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution by his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, was 2 months and work was to be completed by the 4th of Tir [25 June], because of the backlog resulting from the mourning period for the imam of the nation, may God's blessings be upon him, the esteemed president of the council requested the exalted leader to extend the council's deadline. The leader agreed to extend the council's tenure until work is completed.

The debate will continue at today's session of the council.

Further on Amendments

LD2706192589 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA—The Constitutional Review Council (CRC) today passed a law holding the president of the Islamic Republic responsible to the Majlis for the performance of his cabinet.

The council also decided that in the event of the president's death, resignation, absence or illness lasting more than two months the first vice president will act as a caretaker upon the approval of the leader until a new president is elected.

In such cases, the vice president will replace the provisional Presidential Council as defined by the current constitution.

CRC had earlier approved the abolition of the premier's post, and as per the amendments, the president should introduce his cabinet to the Majlis for a vote of confidence.

The 25-member council was set up on the orders of the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, to minutely review the Constitution and iron out any discrepancies. Twenty of its members were personally appointed by the late imam and the remaining five selected by the Majlis.

The law, passed in today's CRC session, stipulates that in case of a reshuffle involving more than half the cabinet, the reshuffled cabinet should again put to a vote of confidence before the Majlis.

Every minister is responsible for his duties before the president and the Majlis, it said.

Any charges levelled against the president, vice president and ministers should be investigated by court houses with the knowledge of the Majlis.

Paper on West's View of Hashemi-Rafsanjani Trip

LD2706145389 Tehran IRNA in English 1411 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 27, IRNA—The Persian daily ETTELA'AT said Tuesday that the U.S. and Britain should not be allowed to damage Iran-Soviet relations. It said the reaction of the Western countries and especially the United States towards the visit to Moscow by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani and their "malicious" interpretation of the development evidences the significance of the visit. It said the visit to Moscow by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani "is truly more than an ordinary visit."

The Western propaganda machinery, said ETTELA'AT, are already "publishing malicious propaganda" and insinuations about the developments in relation with Soviet Muslim republics.

The daily said the warm reception accorded Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Baku with the people freely expressing their feelings towards him, is "indication that both the people and government of the Soviet Union have a proper understanding of the Islamic revolution in Iran, and also indicates their willingness to have close relations with Iran."

It said the Iranians should watch out for any scheme by the CIA and by the British intelligence to exploit the print media and their various agents for sabotaging the relations between Iran and her northern neighbor.

Nepal

Pakistan's Yaqub Khan Arrives for Visit 23 Jun

BK2306142989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived in Kathmandu this evening on a 2-day official visit to Nepal. In a statement on arrival in Kathmandu, he said his visit would promote ties between the two countries. The foreign minister said he would hold talks with his Nepalese counterpart, Shailendra Kumar Upadhaya, on bilateral matters and recent developments in the region and world. About relations between Pakistan and Nepal, he said both countries have friendly sentiments for each other and want to promote these mutual feelings of goodwill.

Referring to relations between India and Nepal, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said it is only natural for us to be concerned, as the nonresolution of the [trade] dispute between the two countries is causing severe economic hardships for Nepal. He added that we have offered to provide all possible assistance to Nepal in meeting its economic difficulties. Pakistan is also in touch with the Indian Government in this connection to urge it to resolve this matter expeditiously in the spirit of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] and good-neighborliness.

Khan Meets With Leaders

BK2406014489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1733 GMT 23 Jun 89

[Text] Kathmandu, June 23 (AFP)—Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan met Friday [23 June] with top Nepalese leaders and said Islamabad was ready to help Kathmandu during its trade row with India.

Mr. Khan met separately with his Nepalese counterpart Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha and King Birendra.

The two foreign ministers had 90-minute talks on bilateral economic cooperation and the prospects of the fifth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), official sources said.

They also discussed the scheduled meeting of the SAARC council of ministers in Islamabad on July 1-2. SAARC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Mr. Upadhyaya explained the current Indo-Nepalese trade impasse and the resulting economic crisis faced by his landlocked kingdom, the sources said.

Upon his arrival in Kathmandu Friday for a one-day visit, Mr. Khan told reporters Pakistan had been following "with growing concern" Nepal's row with India over the expiration of trade and transit treaties in March.

"It is but natural for us to be so concerned, as the non-resolution of the dispute is causing severe economic hardship to Nepal, with whom Pakistan has traditionally enjoyed close friendly cooperation," Mr. Khan said.

Pakistan, he said, was ready to provide any possible assistance to Nepal in meeting its difficulties and had urged the Indian Government to "resolve the matter expeditiously in the spirit of SAARC and good neighbourliness."

He added that Islamabad would also be ready to take initiatives as a mediator between India and Nepal to solve the trade row.

Mr. Khan briefed Mr. Upadhyaya on the Afghanistan problem and the outcome of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's recent U.S. visit. They also discussed ways of expanding trade and the economic cooperation.

Mr. Upadhyaya described his talks with Mr. Khan as "highly useful and fruitful."

Later, Mr. Khan called on Mr. Shrestra at the Singha Durbar—the headquarters of the Nepalese Government—where he conveyed a message of goodwill from Ms. Bhutto.

The two men discussed current international issues, including the Middle East, the Afghan problem, and the political situation in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Khan, who chairs the SAARC council of ministers, said upon his arrival that the presence of Indian troops in Sri Lanka, which Colombo has asked New Delhi to withdraw next month, would be the "central point of discussion at the forthcoming SAARC ministerial meeting."

After his meeting with Mr. Shrestra, Mr. Khan was granted an audience with King Birendra, during which he conveyed the greetings of Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

The Pakistani foreign minister is scheduled to leave Saturday.

Trade Agreement Reached

BK2406024289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] Pakistan and Nepal have agreed to expand their cooperation in the fields of trade and industry. An agreement in this regard was reached during a meeting between Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya in Kathmandu yesterday.

The Nepalese foreign minister told newsmen after the meeting that they exchanged views on bilateral economic cooperation and matters relating to the ministerial council meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] to be held in Islamabad on the 1st and 2d of next month. He said that one of the objectives of the talks was to promote the SAARC spirit and to boost its importance in political terms. He described the talks as very useful and productive.

Earlier, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan called on Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha. They reviewed the friendly relations between the two countries and exchanged views on international as well as regional issues. The Pakistani foreign minister also called on King Birendra and delivered him a message of goodwill from President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Khan Concludes Visit

BK2406133489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 24 Jun 89

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, left Kathmandu today for home after a 2-day visit. He was seen off at the airport by the Nepalese foreign minister, Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhayaya. Talking to newsmen before his departure, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said he held detailed discussions with his Nepalese counterpart and the two countries had agreed to increase their cooperation in trade and economic matters.

Foreign Secretary Departs for SAARC Meeting

BK2606160089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1543 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] Kathmandu, June 26 (AFP)—Nepal's foreign secretary, Narendra Bickram Shah, left here Monday for a meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's (SAARC) Standing Committee in Islamabad, official sources said.

The Standing Committee is scheduled to meet on June 29-30 to discuss the place and date for the fifth SAARC summit scheduled for November in Sri Lanka.

The committee is composed of the seven foreign secretaries from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The members will also discuss the status of plans and programmes decided at the Islamabad summit last fall, the sources said.

A meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers begins in Islamabad on July 1.

A joint-secretary-level delegation left here Monday to attend the SAARC Technical Committee's meeting scheduled to begin Thursday.

Mr. Shah was accompanied by Badri Prasad Shrestha, a senior economist.

Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, who heads Nepal's delegation, was scheduled to go to Islamabad on Thursday.

Pakistan

President Says Afghan Policy 'Remains the Same'

BK2606113789 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Jun 89

[Text] The president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has said Pakistan's policy toward Afghanistan remains the same and Pakistan wants a settlement of the issue through political means. He was talking informally to newsmen at Karachi port after seeing off the last batch of Pakistani Hajj pilgrims going to Saudi Arabia through ship this afternoon. The president said Afghan mujahidin have waged a war against the communist regime there and they are not prepared to share power with it. He said mujahidin are trying to expand their interim government and shift their headquarters inside Afghanistan for which they have made some progress. They are also holding negotiations with 8-party alliance based in Iran to find an amicable solution of their difficulties.

Replying to a question about the center-provinces relations, the president denied that there was any confrontation between the federal and provincial governments.

Replying to another question, the president ruled out the possibility of sabotage in the ordnance factory in Havelian recently. He said according to his information, the blast had taken place due to electric short circuit. He however said that investigations were continuing into the incident.

Bhutto To Visit Britain, France in July

BK2706022489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto will pay official visits to Britain and France next month. She will begin an 8-day visit to Britain at the invitation of Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher on the fifth of next month. She will hold official talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and will also meet British cabinet members to assess the bilateral cooperation and exchange views on important regional and international issues. The prime minister will also meet British opposition leaders and address a gathering of Pakistanis living in Britain.

Ms Benazir Bhutto will begin her 4-day visit to France on the 12th of next month when she will participate in the celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution at the invitation of President Francois Mitterrand. The prime minister is among the elected heads of governments and states who have been invited to Paris on the occasion.

Khan, Bhutto Visit General Headquarters 27 Jun

BK2706154789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto visited the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi this morning. They attended detailed briefing on the security environment which has a direct bearing on peace and security of Pakistan. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; the special assistant to the prime minister, Major General (retired) Nasirullah Khan Babar; the prime minister's adviser on defense, Major General (retired) Imtiaz Ali; Minister of State for Defense Colonel (retired) Ghulam Sarwar Cheema; chiefs of the three services; and several senior officials were present on the occasion.

Earlier, on arrival at the General Headquarters, both the president and the prime minister were received by the chief of the Army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, and senior army officers.

Editorial Welcomes Recent Meetings With India

BK2606144489 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Jun 89 p 7

[Editorial: "India-Pakistan Ties: A Positive Move"]

[Text] The meeting between the Foreign Secretaries and the Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan held this week in Islamabad have been greeted with satisfaction by both sides. It is, however, difficult to say how optimistic one can be in regard to the progress that the two neighbours have made towards better ties. At the press conference at the Islamabad airport on Sunday [18 June] the Pakistan Foreign Secretary took a very favourable view of the progress made. His Indian counterpart who was present concurred. However, this was considerably neutralised by the statement of the Indian Government's spokesman on Monday. According to the press release issued after the Defence Secretaries' meeting, the two sides have agreed to work for a comprehensive settlement on the Siachen issue based on the redeployment of their forces to reduce the chances of conflict in the glacier region. This has been the scene of sporadic fighting since 1984. Officials of the two sides have apparently decided to remove a potential cause of conflict by relocating their forces—or so it seemed before the Indian spokesman voiced reservations about the significance of the Islamabad decisions. According to the Pakistan Foreign Secretary, the army authorities on the two sides would establish contact and try to identify the positions held by either side at the time of the Simla agreement. On the other hand, according to the Indian spokesman, the compromise reached did not envisage a pullout of forces from the area. The talks, according to him, focussed on the strength of the troops presence in the Siachen glacier and led to a decision that military officials would review the possibility of reducing the forces so as to minimise the chances of clashes.

It is rather strange that the understandings just arrived at in Islamabad should have so quickly proved themselves susceptible of more interpretations than one. It goes without saying that the agreed position should be restated in both capitals without equivocation. The episode speaks of the imperative need for proceeding with the utmost caution. However, that may be, the joint statement of June 17 does speak of an agreement by the both sides "to work towards a comprehensive settlement based on redeployment of forces to reduce the chances of conflict" and to determine "future positions on the ground so as to conform to the Simla agreement", the determination of these positions being left to the Army authorities. The Pakistan Foreign Secretary's statement did not depart from this position.

The Siachen agreement is the fourth in a series of accords which have been concluded by the two sides in the last four weeks. In May, India and Pakistan signed the railway agreement which provides for daily rail traffic between them. Next came the accord on concrete measures to contain terrorism, drug trafficking and illicit border crossings. This was followed by an agreement on joint patrolling of the Punjab and Rajasthan borders. If implemented in good faith, these accords could considerably reduce the possibility of friction between the two countries on specific matters. But the on-going dialogue, if it develops favourably, could do some permanent good by improving the general climate of bilateral relations. The significance of this should not be minimised in view of the inexorable tendency towards a relapse into polemical exchanges and mutual recrimination. Given the many knotted issues which remain to be unravelled—the arms buildup, the nuclear issue, the Wullar Barrage question, to name a few—it makes good sense to keep their bilateral relations as stable as possible. In that context, the several meetings the officials of the two countries have had in recent weeks should help improve the situation. What is, however, important is that the two countries should in their dealings conform to the principle of reciprocity and equal advantage. Being the biggest power in the region, India is legitimately expected to reassure all its smaller neighbours on this score.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Announces 'Cessation of Hostilities'

BK2806092489 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0854 GMT 28 Jun 89

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 28 June (LANKAPUVATH)—The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has announced that it had transformed its cease-fire against the Government of Sri Lanka into a cessation of hostilities and to resolve all outstanding issues through negotiations and discussions.

Minister of industries and leader of the house, Ranil Wickramasinghe, who held today's cabinet news briefing in Colombo, said that the cabinet had been informed this morning of this by Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology A.C.S. Hameed, who said the announcement had been made last night on behalf of the LTTE by Anton Balasingham.

Mr Hameed on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka welcomed the LTTE decision and said that government will end all hostilities against the LTTE.

Mr Balasingham and Mr Hameed agreed that all communities and groups should rally round President Ranasinghe Premadasa and secure the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] from the country and all the communities and groups should settle whatever problems they have through consultation, compromise, and consensus without any outside interference. The cabinet spokesman, Ranil Wickramasinghe said the president undertook to take follow up action in this regard. To a question as to whether the LTTE announcement was tantamount to a permanent peace, Mr Wickramasinghe replied in the affirmative.

JVP Suspected in Galle Bomb Blast; 3 Killed

BK2806091089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 3 persons were killed and 20 others seriously wounded when a bomb exploded in an empty jeep outside a local council meeting today. According to the police, the vehicle was torn apart by the blast and part of the council office in Galle, about 120 km from Colombo, caved in. The blast also damaged nearby buildings. Police said Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] extremists are suspected to be responsible for the blast.

Premadasa Describes IPKF as 'Combat Troop'

BK2706114889 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] President Premadasa said that creating internal conflicts at a time when the government is taking action to send the Indian troops [Indian Peacekeeping Force—IPKF] out of the country is not patriotic. Many suspect that a foreign power is inciting certain sections to create chaos in the country. The president said that we should not forget that such a situation prevailed in the country before the arrival of the Indian troops in Sri Lanka. The president was speaking at the annual general meeting of the Sri Lanka Urban Council Federation at the parliamentary complex at the Gammudawa [a village reawakening program] exhibition premises last morning.

Mr Premadasa pointed out that the objective of the present conflict was to keep the Indian forces in the country permanently. Referring to the Indo-Sri Lankan accord, the president said that the Indian prime minister had stated that the Indian troops, which arrived in the country at the request of the Sri Lankan president, would be withdrawn on such request. Mr Premadasa emphasized that his main intention was to see that the last Indian soldier was withdrawn before the end of next month. He said if this was not possible, they should be confined to barracks. If the Indian troops are not withdrawn from Sri Lanka, the president added that India's reputation would be tarnished internationally.

He said that the cost of living as well the prices of goods could not be reduced by disrupting transport activities or other development work of the country.

The Indian troops, which came to reestablish peace in the country within 48 hours, had now become a combat troop.

Referring to the 2,500 rupee allowance, the president noted that it was a demand against the less fortunate. Such a request should not at all be made by the working class.

On provincial councils, he pointed that there were different opinions among the people. However, this bill had not done any harm to independence, territorial integrity, nor the sovereignty of the country.

Opposition Parties Cited on Pullout Issue

BK2806044989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Jun 89

[Text] Several Sri Lankan opposition parties have cautioned Premadasa's government against any action which might lead to the division of the island on ethnic issue. In a statement in Colombo, they reminded the government against the period of vacuum between the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] withdrawal and making alternative security arrangements. The parties include Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, and the Ceylon Workers Congress. They also appealed to the Sri Lankan Government to sort out the issue [of IPKF withdrawal] bilaterally and through negotiations.

The Communist Party of India-Marxists [CPI-M] has said that while Sri Lankan President Mr Premadasa's unilateral call for the withdrawl of the IPKF is fraught with grave consequences, India has no option but to negotiate the schedule of withdrawal. An editorial in the latest issue of the party's organ, PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY, says President Premadasa's unilateral call for withdrawal of IPKF by July 29th will lead to serious complications. The Sri Lankan overnment has also failed to implement the commitment to devolve powers to the [Northeast] provincial council. Praising the role of the IPKF, the CPI-M says it worked sincerely within the ambit of the India-Sri Lankan agreement to create proper conditions for safeguarding the interests of the Tamil minority in a united Sri Lanka.

In a new move, the ruling Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front [EPRLF] in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka has invited the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] for a dialogue to restore peace in the island. In a press release, the EPRLF general secretary, Mr K. Padmanabha, extended what he called a friendly invitation to the JVP for discussion on matters concerning the present political situation in Sri Lanka. He asked the JVP to accept the unconditional offer for seeking ways and means to restore real peace and social progress in the island.

Minister on Non-Attendance at SAARC Summit

BK2706112489 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Jun 89

[Text] Sri Lanka will not take part in the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] foreign minister's meeting. This was stated by the minister of foreign affairs and state minister for defense, Ranjan Wijeratne, at a news conference held at the parliament building in the Gammudava [a village reawakening program] exhibition premises yesterday.

The minister said that according to the main draft bill of the SAARC summit, a member country should not act in a manner that will hinder the independence of a country. Mr Wijeratne said that Sri Lanka suspects the present action by India. Although we are a small country, we should act to safeguard our self respect. The minister disclosed that accordingly, Sri Lanka had informed all members of the decision taken not to participate in the foreign minister's meeting. He also explained at length the present situation in the country.

The foreign minister said that on several occasions attempts were made to overthrow the government elected by the people throughout [as heard]. He also explained how the United National Party acted against such measures.